

Hafa Adai!

Wrongful death suit vs Jeju Air moved to District Court. **PAGE 2**
CUC engine trips, causing islandwide power outage. **PAGE 3**

75¢

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GETTING READY

More than 25 international flags, including the official Pacific Mini Games 2022 flag and the CNMI flag, are installed at the Oleai Sports Complex in time for today's official launch ceremony that will begin the one-year countdown for the Pacific Mini Games 2022, which will draw up over 1,000 athletes from across the Pacific. **JUSTINE NAUTA**

'Include long-term resident workers in expanded eligibility for PUA, PFUC'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives minority

bloc are urging Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to impress upon the CNMI's federal partners to

include CNMI long-term resident workers in the expanded eligibility for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

In separate but similar letters to Torres and Sablan dated May 28, 2021, the minority bloc lawmakers said

these PUA and PFUC unemployment programs have been a critical lifeline for the community and struggling
See PUA on Page 4

IPI seeks judicial review

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is asking the court to set aside the Commonwealth Casino Commission's order that indefinitely suspends

■ IPI asks court to set aside CCC order suspending its license

its gaming license, claiming that the order is not in accordance with the law.

In a petition for judicial review filed by IPI last May 21 and heard by the Superior

Court last Tuesday, IPI claims that CCC's order to indefinitely suspend its license, among other things, was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion
See IPI on Page 4

Workplace vaccinations available soon

» MCATS mass vaccinations to shut down by end of August

Starting July, employees would have the option of getting vaccinated against COVID-19 right in their place of work.

The Commonwealth Health-

care Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will collaborate with workplaces to make the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines available at private businesses.

Starting next month, businesses will be able to serve as vaccination sites for their employees, employees' friends
See WORKPLACE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:06pm, June 16, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **59.7%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	23,605
Fully Vaccinated:	21,424
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,009
Fully Vaccinated:	3,506
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	362

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,251	10	8,261
Recovered	8,063	3	8,066
Active	46	10	56
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	173,219		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	85		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

DAY 3 OF CHILD ABUSE JURY TRIAL

Witness claims police tampered with her statements

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The jury trial of a woman charged with child abuse over the death of a 3-year-old boy entered day three

yesterday with the one of the key witnesses claiming that she did not say some of the statements written on police reports that were admitted into evidence.

Lynn Fitial, the co-defen-

dant in Stacey Laniyo's case and one of the key witnesses called by the CNMI government, claimed that some of the statements taken down by Department of Public

See WITNESS on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

San Francisco's iconic cable cars have returned. Disneyland threw open its doors.

PAGE 11



ASIA

China is set to send the first three crew members to its new space station on Thursday.

PAGE 13



ENVIRONMENT

Hundreds flock to the Civic Center in Susupe to take part in the first ever Ocean Fair.

PAGE 14



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Local

Wrongful death suit vs Jeju Air moved to District Court

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The wrongful death lawsuit against Jeju Airlines Company Ltd. that was initially filed with the Superior Court has been moved to the U.S. District Court.

Lawyer David Banes, who filed the notice of removal to the District Court for the NMI from the CNMI Superior Court and whose law firm

represents Jeju Airlines, said the District Court has jurisdiction over the case because the plaintiff is a U.S. citizen and a CNMI resident and the defendant is incorporated in Korea, where it has its principal place of business and corporate headquarters, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

Mari Chung Cepeda blames Jeju Airlines for the death of

her mother, Tae Hyang Bang, after the airline refused to let her board a flight for Korea last January so she could obtain medical treatment for her worsening heart condition. Cepeda sued Jeju Airlines on May 21 for wrongful death, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Bang was a Korean citizen and a permanent resident of

the United States who was domiciled on Saipan. She was 62 years old at the time of her death.

According to the original complaint, Bang's heart condition took a turn for the worse in December 2020 and Cepeda decided to bring her to Korea as soon as possible to consult with a cardiologist and undergo whatever procedures were necessary to correct her condition.

Normally, Jeju Air had daily flights to Korea but as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, flights were discontinued. However, Jeju did offer a flight from Saipan to Korea on Jan. 15, 2021. Cepeda decided that Bang should take that flight.

On Dec. 9, 2020, Cepeda attempted to book a seat on the Jan. 15, 2021 Jeju flight, but was unsuccessful. On that same day, she contacted Jeju Saipan staff member Ana Kim, and told her that her mother was in critical condition with a heart problem that could not be treated on Saipan and that she was desperate to get her mother to Korea as soon as possible, and she would need to have oxygen on the plane. The complaint stated that Kim told Cepeda she would do her best to help her, but had to check with Jeju Air's upper management.

On Dec. 12, 2020, Cepeda informed Kim that she had ordered what's called a POC, the Inogen One, which was approved and authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration, for her mother's use. Kim later told Cepeda that Jeju Air management refused to allow Bang on the plane with the Inogen One.

Research by Cepeda, which she reported to Jeju Air, showed other airlines, including Asiana, United, Korean Air, and Jin Air, allowed POCs on their planes and had application forms for this purpose. A screenshot of Asiana's website allowing the use of POCs and providing application process was sent to Jeju Air.

Later that day, Cepeda received a message Kim who said that Jeju's decision was final and that her mother would not be allowed on their plane to Korea on Jan. 15, 2021 with a POC.

On Dec. 30, 2020, Cepeda filed a complaint against Jeju Air with the Department of Transportation and received a

reply stating, "We will remind the carrier that as they are operating into a U.S. airport since the rule also applies to territories that they need to abide by the [Air Carrier Access Act] which requires them to accept FAA-approved POCs. We will forward your complaint to the airline and will ask the company to respond directly to you. Airlines are required to provide a substantive response to the complainant within 60 days." As of May 10, 2021, Jeju Air had not responded to Cepeda's complaint.

Through Bang's relatives in Korea, Cepeda was able to arrange an appointment for Bang to have a consultation at Asan Medical Center on Jan. 28, 2021.

Cepeda then again informed Jeju Air of the desperate condition her mother was in and how critical it was for her mother to get passage on the plane from Saipan to Korea, and that the POC she would use was approved by the FAA.

The lawsuit alleged that Jeju Air callously cut her off and recklessly refused to accept her explanations and failed to conduct any investigation of its obligations under the Air Carrier Access Act or ACAA and the FAA approval of the Inogen one POC.

Jeju Air's flight from Saipan to Korea took off from Saipan as scheduled on Jan. 15, 2021, without Bang.

According to the lawsuit, if Bang had been able to be on that flight and get to Korea on Jan. 15, 2021, she would have completed a 14-day quarantine and made the appointment at Asan Medical Center on Jan. 28, 2021.

If not for Jeju Air's violation of the law in refusing passage to Bang using a POC, Cepeda said Bang would have arrived in Korea on Jan. 15, 2021, and would have had access to the specialized cardiac care at Asan Medical Center that would have saved her life.

American Samoa culture plays a role in US citizenship ruling

HONOLULU (AP)—In a decision citing American Samoa cultural traditions, those born in the U.S. territory shouldn't have citizenship automatically forced on them, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal ruling reverses a lower court ruling that sided with three people from American Samoa who live in Utah and sued to be recognized as citizens. The judge ruled the Utah residents are entitled to birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment. He then put his ruling on hold pending

ing appeal.

U.S. Congress should play a bigger role than the courts in deciding citizenship for those in territories, the appeals court ruling said.

American Samoa is the only unincorporated territory of the United States where the inhabitants are not American citizens at birth.

Instead, those born in the cluster of islands some 2,600 miles (4,184 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii are granted "U.S. national" status, meaning they can't vote for

See SAMOA on Page 4



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CUC engine trips, causing islandwide power outage

By JOSHUA SANTOS

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REPORTER

The islandwide power outage yesterday morning happened soon after Engine 6 of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base tripped at 10:28am, causing portions of northern and southern Saipan to go offline.

As a protective measure, all of Saipan's other electricity feeders were manually tripped, resulting in the islandwide outage. This was all learned through the initial news release that CUC issued half an hour after the power outage.

In another release in the afternoon, CUC announced that it was able to fully restore power services to the entire island at 12:45pm.

Feeder 1, which provides power for the northern part of Sadog Tasi and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., was the first to be brought back online at around 11:45am. This was soon followed by the restoration of power to the other feeders.

As a result of the islandwide outage, CUC reported that water services for As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, Achugao, As Mahetog, Sadog Tasi, Chalan Galaide, Upper Navy Hill, Mt. Tapochao, Wireless, Talofofo, Capital Hill, I Denni, As Teo, Papago, Gualo Rai, As Terlaje, Lower Dandan, Fina Sisu and As Perdido, a portion of Koberville, Kannat Tabla, and Chalan Kiya were affected.

Water services for these areas were offline until 3:30pm yesterday due to low tank levels as a result of the outage. Additionally, water services for As Matuis, Kagman, and Capital Hill Tank Service Areas were scheduled to go offline at 6pm yesterday.

"CUC appreciates your patience and understanding throughout the emergency outage", said the company in its press release.

Those with additional concerns can call CUC customer service at 664-4282 or visit CUC's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation> for the latest updates.

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More CUC customers express frustrations

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The public comment portion of a board meeting usually takes place near the end but that got turned around during yesterday's meeting of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, which got started with group of residents kicking off the meeting by venting their frustrations with the agency.

Originally, opening the floor to public comments was set to be the sixth item on the agenda, but the board quickly motioned to move the "public comments" portion of its meeting to the top of the agenda so

they could listen to the complaints of a group of residents.

First up was Del Benson, a Saipan resident for almost 30 years, who reiterated the complaints he raised during a CUC board meeting last week, which *Saipan Tribune* had already reported.

Next was small business owner Gus Noble, who has lived on Saipan for six years now. Noble leased a plot of land last year in order to get a business venture going, and required electricity to be delivered to the lot. Noble shared with the board that he contacted CUC in July 2020 to begin discussion on how to get electricity delivered to his lot, and was met with the response that a power pedestal

needed to be built first before CUC would send a team to do land surveys and subsequently put in power poles. Noble paid for a pedestal to be built at a certain point that CUC identified, and was then told by staff at the Power Division that the pedestal was in the wrong place. Noble paid for another pedestal to be built.

"I'm a small business owner. These types of delays cost money. I had to pay \$6,000 to get the power connected. I had to pay for the poles! I am paying for you guys to increase your power grid, and I can't get that done in a timely way? That's just not acceptable," said Noble.

Next was Vincent Seman Aldan,

"The constitutional issues that would arise in the context of America Samoa's unique culture and social structure would be unusual, if not entirely novel, and therefore unpredictable."

Drawing on the views of the American Samoa people is one of the more gratifying aspects of the ruling, said Michael Williams, an attorney representing the American Samoa government, which intervened to oppose the lawsuit.

"It is also vindication for the principle that the people of American Samoa should determine their own status in accordance with Samoan culture and traditions," he said.

A path toward U.S. citizenship exists for those who want it. But some say it's costly and cumbersome. Non-citizen nationals of American Samoa are entitled to work and travel freely in the United States and receive certain advantages in the naturalization process.

Neil Weare, one of the attorneys representing the plaintiffs, said they are disappointed by the ruling, and are reviewing next steps. Options included asking a wider panel of appeals court judges to hear the case or taking it to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Weare is president of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for people in U.S. territories.

He said he was impressed with a dissenting judge's opinion.

"When the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified, courts, dictionaries, maps, and censuses uniformly regarded territories as land 'in the United States,'" wrote Judge Robert E. Bacharach in his dissent.

Self-determination is a highly valued principle in American Samoa, said Line-Noue Memea Kruse, adjunct faculty in Pacific islands studies at Brigham Young University-Hawaii and whose book is cited in the ruling.

heavily relies on foreign workers, this limiting definition left many affected CNMI workers ineligible for PUA and PFUC, the lawmakers said.

With the Torres-Palacios administration's continued requests to expand eligibility and Sablan's support, U.S. Congress passed the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act to include a Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker—or CW-1s—in the qualified alien definition for purposes of PUA and PFUC.

Yet despite this momentous win for the CNMI community, there are still many affected workers whose immigration status has left them without necessary assistance, such as CNMI long term residents, the lawmakers said.

They said that when many residents who were previously parolees

or CW-1s applied and were approved for the recently created CNMI Long Term Resident status, they lost their qualified alien status and inadvertently disqualified themselves from PUA and PFUC benefits.

"While we understand the rationale in limiting federal public benefits, it is counterintuitive and seriously fails the people who legally live and work in the CNMI," the lawmakers said in the letters.

The signatories in the letters are Republican Reps. Roy Christopher A. Ada, Blas Jonathan Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Ivan A. Blanco, and Ralph N. Yumul. Rep. Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan) is also a signatory.

small employee numbers may partner with other businesses to meet the minimum threshold of at least 15 registered vaccine recipients.

With the availability of COVID-19 vaccines at more sites, the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the Commonwealth Health Center parking lot will shut down mass vaccination operations by the end of August. The last day for first-dose administration of any COVID-19 vaccine at the MCATS will be June 19, 2021. Only second doses will be administered starting June 21, 2021, and the MCATS operational hours will run Monday-Saturday, 8am-1pm.

The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center will continue to serve

as a vaccination site, along with workplace and village outreach sites. Register online at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, walk in, or call (670) 682-SHOT (7468).

As of June 16, 2021, 59% of the eligible population in the CNMI have been fully vaccinated. For live updates on this number, visit www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard.

The COVID-19 vaccines are available to uninsured residents. Vaccine recipients do not have to pay for vaccination. Free transportation to and from vaccination sites is available from the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, and must be requested online at www.vaccinatecnmi.com or by calling 682-SHOT (7468). (PR)

who presented to the board a binder filled with paperwork showing that CUC has supposedly been overcharging him on electricity for three years, and showed "threatening letters" from CUC saying that it will disconnect his utility. He also expressed his frustration with customer service. "Every time I call customer service, [they say] we're looking into it. We're talking to the supervisor. We're talk-

ing to the manager. ...We're going on three years and I'm still messing around with this issue," said Aldan.

CUC board chair Miranda V. Manglona said all public comments and complaints were acknowledged, and that "we will definitely sit down and discuss this with management."

The meeting was held at CUC's main office's conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building.

IPI

From Page 1

tion, and not in accordance with the law as CCC did not consider, determine, or reasonably base its order upon the appropriate applications of principles of *force majeure* under CNMI law.

Force majeure relieves two parties from performing their obligations under a binding contract when circumstance out of their control arises, resulting in one or both of the parties becoming unable to carry out their obligations.

The event IPI argues warrants a *force majeure* is the COVID-19 pandemic that was recognized by the Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Lottery Commission in an amendment to the Casino License Agreement that was executed on Dec. 15, 2020.

"As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unexpected major unpredicted global event that has already lasted almost six months and generally expected to last for many more months to come, Imperial Pacific's current ability to make payments that are currently in arrears has been impacted. On or about March 17, 2020, Imperial Pacific closed the operation

of its casino in CNMI, citing diminished tourists to the CNMI and the present unknown as to when tourism may property resume," the amendment states.

Because of the cited amendments, IPI argues that CCC's order was unwarranted and the proceedings that the order was based on were held without observance of procedure required by law.

"The CCC, in making its findings, improperly relied on material not in the evidentiary record, including, without limitation, the 2020 annual report of IPI's indirect parent company. IPI did not have an opportunity to challenge, examine, or rebut the conclusions drawn from the CCC's consideration of such evidence," the suit states.

Aside from the suspension of its license, CCC's order also requires IPI to pay penalties totaling \$6.6 million, orders IPI to pay a total of \$18.6 million purportedly due under the Casino License Agreement and applicable regulation, and directs IPI to comply with previous orders issued by the CCC.

CCC suspended IPI's license last April following various complaints against it for failure to comply with certain requirements under its license agreement.

SAMOA

From Page 2

U.S. president, run for office outside American Samoa or apply for certain jobs. The only federal election they can cast a vote in is the race for American Samoa's nonvoting U.S. House seat.

The ruling notes that American Samoa government leaders and others opposed the lawsuit because they are concerned automatic citizenship could disrupt cultural traditions, such as communal land ownership and social structures organized around large, extended families led by matai, those with hereditary chieftain titles.

"There is simply insufficient caselaw to conclude with certainty that citizenship will have no effect on the legal status of the fa'a Samoa," or the American Samoan way of life, the ruling said.

PUA

From Page 1

economy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, yet recent developments have inadvertently disqualified many long-term resident workers from receiving the benefits.

The lawmakers asked Torres to appeal to U.S. Congress in expanding eligibility under these PUA and PFUC programs. The lawmakers requested Sablan's continued support to expand eligibility under the PUA and PFUC programs.

Originally, in order to be eligible for federal public benefit, a claimant must be a U.S. citizen, non-national citizen, or qualified alien. Considering that the CNMI's labor market

allegations were true.

"I'm very concerned because she's saying that the officer added portions to her statement that she doesn't know about. I need you to call the officer and confirm that she did not write those statements after she signed off on. I'm having her testify and read her statements, which she may not have given," he said.

The jury trial is set to resume today.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the alleged abuse happened in 2020, when Laniyo allegedly hit the child with a tree branch, a broom, or her hand or by biting him.

Laniyo, Fitial's partner, allegedly admitted spanking the child with a tree branch to discipline him because he was very naughty. She told police that the child was without fear.

Fitial is accused of failing to provide medical care for the child, resulting in his death. Fitial told police that the boy had been ill and was given ibuprofen, which he vomited, before he was observed to have stiffened.

Dr. Philip Dauterman stated that the boy died due to obstruction of the airway due to pharyngitis and tracheitis, contributed by peritonitis due to gastroenteritis. He said the boy's symptoms, which would have been vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, fever, and sore throat, would have been obvious to any reasonable parent or guardian and a cause for concern.

Dauterman said the child was effectively dead when he was brought to the hospital.

WITNESS

From Page 1

Safety investigators that were compiled into a document and entered into evidence during the trial were not her own and she did not sign off on them.

"She mixed up what she wrote. I said a lot of stuff to her but there's a lot of things in these statements that are not true. Some things that my mom said, she made it seem like I said [them]...she mixed up a lot of things. Some of these [statements] I didn't see," she said.

Particularly, the statements that Fitial claims were not hers related to how long the child experienced the symptoms that resulted in his death, witnessing Laniyo's alleged beatings like biting the child and forcing him to do pushups while he was extremely ill, whether they were going to bring the child to the hospital, and more.

Of the five-page compiled statements, Fitial said she only signed off on four of the pages. She claims the other statements were either added in without her knowledge or were mixed up with statements made by her mother, and other members of the household.

That prompted Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho to excuse the jury, saying he was concerned about the claims and ordered the prosecution to call up the Department of Public Safety to clarify if the

WORKPLACE

From Page 1

and family, or their immediate community. CHCC staff will administer the vaccines. A minimum of 15 persons must be registered for vaccinations for each workplace site. All that is required is a valid ID to sign up.

Businesses wishing to have COVID-19 vaccinations administered at their locations can contact 682-SHOT (7468) for more information and to register. Registration must be submitted at least four days in advance. CHCC staff will visit to assess the viability of using the location as a vaccination site. Businesses with



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CNMI PUA Group sets protest rally today at Kilili Beach Park

Members of the Facebook group called CNMI PUA Group will be holding a whole-day protest rally today, June 17, at the Kilili Beach Park, to bring attention to what it says

is the “slow or zero progress” in the implementation of the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program that is being administered by the CNMI Department of Labor,

as well as many other issues related to this program.

Participants will start assembling at 7am by the Kilili Beach Park pavilion, and is expected to last from 8am to

6pm. Organizers have assured in a press statement that a pavilion has been reserved for this purpose.

In the statement the group released to the media, it cited

Ex-Marine gets his discharge status changed after nearly 30 years

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former Marine who received an “other than honorable” discharge in the ’90s was able to get the Department of the Navy’s Board for Correction of Naval Records to reexamine his case almost 30 years later. The board later agreed with the man that his status needs revision, and on Feb. 17, former U.S. Marine Corps private Steven E. Albright’s status was changed to reflect that he received a “Gen-

eral (under honorable conditions)” discharge.

In case documents that Albright provided to *Saipan Tribune* last week, the USMC originally gave Albright an “other than honorable” discharge on Nov. 24, 1993, citing a “pattern of misconduct” throughout his time as a USMC private in the ’90s that involved Albright allegedly abusing alcohol and cannabis and refusing treatment for his alleged alcohol and drug abuse.

In his petition to change his discharge status, Albright explained his circumstances during the period of his alleged misconduct. Albright told the review board that he was continuously sexually assaulted by a male supervisor during his time on active duty, and began to exhibit behaviors seen in victims with post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma. Albright said he sought help through the Navy, but he was “not offered treatment following relapse.” Albright said he then turned to alcohol and drugs to cope.

Almost 30 years later, after reviewing all evidence it had on record, the Board for Correction of Naval Records sided with Albright and understood his situation. The board made clear in documents that

it does not condone Albright’s actions, but given its “current understanding of mental health conditions,” saw that changing Albright’s discharge status was warranted.

Albright spent the early parts of his life in Florida, found himself homeless for some years in Hawaii, and eventually made his way to Saipan, where he resides today. In a phone call with *Saipan Tribune*, he looked back on his life and shared why he felt his story needed to be told.

“I’ve had a heck of a life. I’ve been homeless for a time, I’ve been labeled a drug addict, and I couldn’t get a decent job for the longest time due to my discharge. People need to know the truth. I wasn’t a bad Marine, I was just in a bad situation,” said Albright.

several issues they have with the PUA program:

1. Lack of communication from DOL to the PUA recipients. None really.

2. DOL has not been present in the weekly “Governors COVID-19 Briefing” for the past six weeks.

3. No status updates on PUA 1 Program: How much has been spent thus far, how many are still waiting, how much is needed to complete this program, and how much money remains to be distributed (plus or minus).

4. The LWA program (Lost Wage Assistance) was to be six-week program. Only three weeks were paid to those who qualified. Currently, according

the Sen. Edith DeLeon Guerrero’s office during her oversight hearing regarding LWA/FEMA, there is still \$2 million that may be sent back to the Federal Emergency Management Agency due to lack of recipients.

5. As per Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan’s weekly update, DOL has \$180 million in the bank for the start of PUA 2 (Jan. 27 to Mar. 13). Additional funds will be transferred from the federal government as program proceeds forward. When it proceeds. We want to know when.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Colleagues remember Waldo



Richard Francis Waldo passed away last June 10 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Colleagues paid tribute to long-time educator Richard Francis Waldo, who passed away last June 10 at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. due to a heart attack.

“Mr. Waldo has always been a very humble, kind, and understanding [Public School System] employee. We [were] blessed to have him. I am blessed and grateful to have known him. ...In very challenging moments with our funding, Mr. Waldo found solutions to make things happen for our PSS. He was calm, collected, and a problem-solver for the district,” said Jacqueline A. Quitagua, PSS’ senior director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Waldo taught for more than 30 years in the U.S. mainland, Guam, and the CNMI, holding his last teaching post at Kagman Elementary School for PSS’ Title One program. He was a former PSS chief financial officer and taught at the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas International School, Mt. Car-

mel School, Marianas High School, and Ladera International School.

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School principal Cherlyn Cabrera-Osung and Marianas High School P.E. teacher James Feger also had good words for their former colleague, remembering Waldo as a funny, kind, and generous co-worker. Oleai Elementary School principal Jasylene S. Parico recalled Waldo as great instructor in her administration and finance class.

Interment moved to June 22

Meanwhile, Waldo’s wife, Ednelyn, said that her husband’s interment has been moved from June 18 to June 22 at the Veteran’s Memorial Park in Marpi. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Waldo will receive military honors.

There will be viewing from 8am to 10am, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Jude’s Parish in Koblerville. (*Saipan Tribune*)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to our mom, Zina C. Nekaifes! We thank you for the unconditional love you have given us throughout the years. We appreciate your hard work and dedication in shaping us to be the persons we are today. We love you so much, have fun! Greetings come from Paul and your children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-21-2031

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Desk Audit

Submission /Closing Date: July 12, 2021
Time: 11:00AM (ChST)

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **June 04, 2021** at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For: Marianas Visitors Authority

TOURISM RESUMPTION INVESTMENT PLAN (TRIP)

MVA-RFP-21-2032 TRIP-AIRLINES

MVA-RFP-21-2033 TRIP-HYBRID QUARANTINE FACILITY

MVA-RFP-21-2034 TRIP-CORRIDOR HOTELS

Submission /Closing Date: **June 23, 2021**
Time: **10:00AM (ChST)**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **June 09, 2021** at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: RFP21-JUDICIARY-101

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 16, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“REPAIR OF DAMAGE AND/OR DETERIORATED CONCRETE WALL AND TRIMS FOR THE GUMA’ HUSTISIA. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

A **MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **09:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 24, 2021** AT THE GUMA’ HUSTISIA ASSEMBLY MALL.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHALL BE DIRECTED TO **MR. GERALD WEAVER, BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT**, VIA EMAIL TO gerald.weaver@nmijudiciary.com ON OR BEFORE THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, July 01, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL BIDDERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF OF JUSTICE

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

Request for Proposals

RFP NO.: RFQ21-GOV-109

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 06, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“Request for Qualifications for Provision of Architect/Engineering Services – Garapan Revitalization Project Management Services”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. CHRIS A. CONCEPCION AT chris.concepcion@opd.gov.mp,

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

RFQ21-CHCC/PH/CGC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 21, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Revised USCIS policy tightens protections for crime victims

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is updating the USCIS Policy Manual by introducing a new employment authorization process for petitioners for U nonimmigrant status—or U visa—with pending bona fide petitions who meet certain discretionary standards. This new process will allow eligible petitioners access to more timely employment authorization, which will provide these victims of crime more stability as they rebuild their lives, and will better equip them to cooperate with and assist law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting crime.

Currently, U visa petitioners are waiting at least five years before receiving a decision permitting them access to an

employment authorization document. During this wait time, they face vulnerabilities, such as financial instability and fear of deportation. Through this policy update, victims will receive, without extensive delay or lengthy wait times, the stability they need while they work with law enforcement. This increase in victim cooperation will further fortify law enforcement's ability to protect and secure communities throughout the United States.

USCIS will now adjudicate employment authorization for eligible petitioners with pending U visa petitions that USCIS determines are bona fide, or made in good faith and without intention

of deceit or fraud. This new process is referred to as the Bona Fide Determination Employment Authorization (BFD EAD) process.

"It is unfortunate for anyone to have suffered or witnessed criminal activity, but even more so when they are not familiar with the country and lacking necessary support in their quest for justice," said USCIS acting director Tracy Renaud. "This bona fide determination process will allow U visa petitioners to work and remain safely in the United States while they provide valuable support to law enforcement to detect, investigate or prosecute the serious crimes they have survived or witnessed." (USCIS)

NEWS BRIEFS

Update on delay in transfer of June 15 benefit payments

As of 6:30pm of June 15, 2021, the Settlement Fund has confirmed the transfer of funds to members holding accounts at the Bank of Guam, and previously confirmed the transfer of funds to account members at the Bank of Saipan and City Trust Bank. We will continue to monitor the transfer of funds to other non-Bank of Hawaii account members and update members as information is provided. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to resolve the issues.

Contact information for the Settlement Fund:

■ Tel: (670) 322-3863

■ Fax: (670) 664-8080

■ Email: info@nmisf.com.

(PR)

Hofschneider graduates from Oregon State

Henry K. Hofschneider has graduated from the Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

More than 7,000 students representing all 36 of Oregon's counties, all 50 states and 73 countries have earned degrees as part of the university's Class of 2021.

The graduates were celebrated with an in-person, informal processional of graduates through the Corvallis campus to Reser Stadium followed by brief remarks from OSU leaders on June 11. Oregon State University president emeritus Edward J. Ray gave the commencement address during a virtual ceremony June 12.

This year's class includes a record 7,391 graduating students receiving 7,690 degrees, with 271 students receiving two degrees and four who will receive three degrees. They will

add to the ranks of Oregon State alumni, which have earned 272,504 degrees over the university's history.

The graduating class includes 1,390 who are the first in their family to earn a college degree; 4,226 Oregon residents; 3,164 non-resident students; and 983 students from other countries. With this graduating class, Oregon State will now have more than 205,000 alumni living and working in all 50 states and more than 125 countries. (PR)

Power interruption on June 23

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on June 23, 2021, Wednesday, from 9am to 1pm.

■ Areas Affected: Koblerville (Partial of Bibinka Ave. and Tamales Ct.)

■ Circuit: Kiya 2

■ Water Well Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To replace two rotted primary power poles and to lift sagging primary lines along Bibinka Ave.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at 236-4333 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationf>). (PR)

Power interruption on June 18

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on June 18, 2021, Friday, from 1:30pm to 2:30pm.

■ Areas Affected: Papago (Isa Dr., Fresko Pl., Sachet Ln., Dagga Pl., Pengua Pl., Maie Ln., Palm Tree Pl., Papago Dr., Sosugi Dr., Leel Ln., Tulip Pl., Pina Dr., Chetnot Pl., Ahagaga Dr., and Amot Ln.)

■ Circuit: Feeder 4

■ Water Well Affected: None

■ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

■ Purpose: To continue the

replacement of a rotted primary power pole with a concrete pole. Due to the heavy rainfall last Friday, June 11, 2021, the line crew was unable to access the area of the second pole that needed to be replaced.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationf>). (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 501521, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2021 Second General Membership Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 at Annex-Pacific Islands Club from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of June 21, 2021
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2021 SRC First General Membership Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2021
- V. Reports
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - e. OVR Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. SRC Fiscal Officer Appointment
 - b. Appointment for sub-committee chairs
 - c. Review Revised SRC Resource Plan
- VII. Action Item
 - a. Review and Approval of Revised SRC By-Laws
- VIII. New Business
 - a. SRC Workshop Session
 - b. OVR Executive Director Position
- IX. Public Forum
- X. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- XI. Next meeting: _____
- XII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation (such as large print or sign language interpreter), as well as for those who would prefer to attend virtually, Zoom availability is an option. Please call Tiava To'omata at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than 4:30PM on Friday, June 18, 2021 to communicate the necessary arrangements.

/s/ **PRESTON O. BASA, SRC CHAIRPERSON**

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Opinion

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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Teaching 9/11

With each passing year, the events of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack fade a bit more from public memory.

That fateful day may be stamped forever in the minds of those who were alive to witness it, but more than 70 million Americans have been born in the intervening decades.

Education about 9/11 has been uneven at best, and one 2019 survey of teachers noted a distressing upward trend in the number of students repeating conspiracy theories about 9/11 or misunderstanding the relationship between Islamic extremism and terrorism.

This event shaped a generation of Americans. Those in school should be taught in a clear and deliberate manner to understand its significance. To clarify misconceptions and clip conspiracy theories in the bud, the federal government should set standards for teaching 9/11 in schools.

At present there is no national guidance for states to follow in terms of teaching the topic, and teaching strategies vary considerably by state, school and individual educator. Some opt to teach the subject in U.S. history courses, while some place it in social studies or civics programs. Some textbooks give little mention to the event.

For those thinking a national standard would be an overreach or too much meddling by the federal government, education standards already are applied to other subjects. The importance of this particular topic demands care and attention in how it is broached with students from a young age, as the complexity of discussing terrorism requires discretion.

Kids need to know, but what they need to know at what age can be a tricky needle to thread.

There are some free resources available now to teachers and others who are interested in 9/11 including photos, video, and first person accounts of the events of the day.

Additionally, federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Education, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service have compiled or created materials to assist teachers with lesson plans on the topic, many of which were created around the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

The National Education Association offers free resources to teachers to provide suggestions on how to teach 9/11 to students who have no memory of that day.

As America approaches the 20th anniversary of the attacks, taking a further step and codifying guidelines and standards for teaching the material will help memorialize the facts of the attacks as well as the unity that resulted in the aftermath of that dark day.

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China's nuclear leak is no Chernobyl, but we should still worry

Is a nuclear power plant on the edge of China's 60 million-strong Pearl River Delta megalopolis on the verge of an emergency? It doesn't look like it—but that doesn't mean there's no cause for concern.

The U.S. government has been assessing a report of a leak at the Taishan No. 1 nuclear power plant west of the cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, CNN reported Monday, adding that the situation doesn't pose a severe safety threat to workers at the plant or the wider public. A separate statement from Electricite de France SA, or EDF, which owns 30% of the facility and controls Framatome, the company responsible for its maintenance, said there had been an "increase in the concentration of certain noble gases in the primary circuit" of the plant, adding that this was a "known phenomenon."

Don't fret. There's nothing in the reports so far to suggest that Taishan is anywhere near turning into a Chernobyl, Fukushima or Three Mile Island. Still, the manner in which the news has emerged suggests a deeper problem that China's nuclear industry will need to rectify in the years ahead.

The scant information we have already gives several clues about what's happened. Noble gases, particularly helium, xenon and krypton, are normal products of radioactive decay. The gas was coming from the deterioration of "a few fuel rods" and levels were in line with international standards, EDF said. If rods deteriorate, they'll release fission products like xenon into the water flowing past them and on to the turbines that generate electricity. Detecting these gases is an early warning that one of the plant's multiple safety systems isn't working properly.

Such incidents aren't particularly rare, or overly concerning. More than 2% of fuel rod assemblies failed in this way in the U.S. between 1994 and 2006, according to a study by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Rates in most of Europe were not much better. Nuclear power plants have numerous redundant safety systems, and as long as any leak remains within the fortresslike reactor building, it should largely mean that plant staff have to temporarily take a few extra precautions, refueling becomes more tricky, and maintenance spending goes up.

Why, then, should anyone care about what happened? The main reason relates to the way the news has emerged.

Framatome first reached out to the U.S. Department of Energy last month warning of a potential issue at the plant, according to CNN's report, adding that a company official described the incident as "an imminent radiological threat to the site and to the public" in a June 8 memo. Meanwhile, China's regulator, the National Nuclear Safety Administration, or NNSA, was increas-

By **DAVID FICKLING**
Bloomberg Opinion

David Fickling is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering commodities, as well as industrial and consumer companies. He has been a reporter for Bloomberg News, Dow Jones, the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times and the Guardian.



ing its mandatory limit on noble gas concentrations to keep the leak within safety parameters, according to CNN's account of the memo; Framatome suspected this was being done to avoid shutting down the reactor.

Throughout this, the NNSA itself has remained silent. A nuclear safety monitoring website run by China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment has no records of any problems with Taishan. The plant's operator, China General Nuclear Power Corp., only said that "environmental indicators" at and around the plant are normal—a wording that doesn't quite address the within-plant issues that EDF and Framatome are looking at.

That silence and careful choice of words is the real problem. Nuclear safety, like aviation safety, is generally pretty good—but to get that way, it depends on a paranoid regulatory culture that addresses the smallest problem with the maximum of attention and transparency. That doesn't appear to be happening in this instance.

In both the Chernobyl and Fukushima disasters, the absence of such a culture within government regulators and power utilities was a key contributor to the incidents that followed, according to Najmedin Meshkati, a professor of engineering at the University of Southern California and expert on nuclear safety.

"The combination of these two things can make or break a nuclear power industry in any country," he said. The Taishan incident "should be an awakening for China to learn the lessons from Chernobyl and Fukushima, and do some soul-searching."

China accounts for more than 10% of the world's nuclear power production, and about a third of the new plants under construction worldwide. For the health of its population, and its ability to decarbonize the world's most polluting power grid, the government needs to ensure the atomic energy sector is run in a way that puts safety and transparency above political and public relations concerns. Fixing that should be just as much a priority as replacing Taishan's broken fuel rods.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fireworks shortage presents the perfect opportunity for change

In the era of COVID-19, “shortage” is becoming a familiar word. But unlike the absence of toilet paper, cleaning supplies and flour, the fireworks shortage could prove beneficial.

What Marjorie Taylor Greene did not apologize for

By **PATRICIA MURPHY**
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



ATLANTA—Marjorie Taylor Greene has been called on to apologize many times before.

For promoting the dangerous QAnon conspiracy theory; for harassing a school shooting victim; for statements so racist, anti-Semitic and offensive that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell earlier called her “looney lies” a “cancer” on the GOP.

In the past, the Georgia Republican has not only ignored it all, but became a fundraising juggernaut based on claims Washington was trying to “cancel” her.

But on Monday came a surprising change of tone from the congresswoman. After a tour of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, Greene called an evening press conference to apologize for the “offensive” comments she made last month comparing mask-wearing rules to the murder of 6 million Jewish people by the Nazi regime.

In May, Greene lashed out at House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for a requirement that House members wear face masks until all members were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

“You know, we can look back at a time in history where people were told to wear a gold star and they were definitely treated like second-class citizens, so much so that they were put in trains and taken to gas chambers in Nazi Germany, and this is exactly the type of abuse that Nancy Pelosi is talking about,” Greene said then.

Asked later by WDUN host Martha Zoller, Greene denied ever bringing up the Holocaust. “People love to twist and turn all my words. I never compared it to the Holocaust. And it wasn’t about masks. I was all about vaccine passports.”

But standing in front of the U.S. Capitol Monday evening, Greene changed course.

“I should own it. I made a mistake.”

The dramatic turnabout for a no-apologies renegade was a politically expedient move. She is facing the threat of a censure resolution in the House brought by a Jewish Democratic lawmaker.

But it wasn’t a blanket apology. CNN reported that she refused to back off her comments at a Dalton town hall comparing Democrats to Nazis.

Local Jewish leaders say they were caught unaware by Greene’s mea culpa. Several state Republican officials said they didn’t have anything to do with it.

We’re told credit belongs to another GOP figure: House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy. He previously called her remarks “appalling” and condemned her narrative.

On conservative outlets Monday she made no mention of her museum visit or contrition. Nor did she post anything about her mea culpa on her Twitter account.

Instead, she tweeted an interview earlier in the day pushing debunked election fraud conspiracies and saying she does not care about an earlier Democratic petition to expel her from Congress.

“I really don’t care about that...and neither does my district,” she said told conservative host David Brody. “That’s just Leftists, probably ANTIFA card-carrying members and BLM domestic terrorists signed that and it doesn’t mean anything.”

In its most recent Fireworks Annual Report, the Consumer Products Safety Commission estimated that in 2019, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated 10,000 patients for fireworks-related injuries. The agency received reports of at least 12 fireworks-related deaths but points out that the actual number is likely higher.

In addition, the National Fire Protection Association found that pyrotechnics start an average of almost 20,000 fires every year, causing more than \$100 million in property damage. And insurance often won’t pick up the tab. Sadly, these explosives also cause thousands of wildfires every year with devastating consequences for forests and the animals in them. And with current drought conditions in many parts of the country, wildfires this year could be especially destructive.

Fires aren’t the only threat posed to wildlife by pyrotechnics. In areas where fireworks have been set off, surfaces and groundwater frequently become contaminated with perchlorate—a carcinogen common in explosives. Animals can also ingest or be injured by the unexploded shells, pieces of plastic and other debris left behind.

And during loud displays, startled deer and other animals frequently run into roadways and birds flee their nests. After one fireworks show in Arkansas, the bodies of about 5,000 red-winged blackbirds began raining down from the sky. The birds had panicked and taken flight but, because of their poor night vision, had crashed into houses, signs and other obstacles, causing blunt-force trauma and death.

On New Year’s Eve last year, people set off fireworks in Rome, Italy, despite the city’s ban, resulting in hundreds of dead birds covering the city streets. The International Organization for Animal Protection surmised that in addition to dying in collisions, another cause of death was heart attacks brought on by fear. Other birds have died after choking on the thick plumes of chemical-laden smoke.

Bombs bursting in air can be upsetting to veterans, small children and anyone else with a sensitivity to loud sounds—but they are often deadly to dogs and cats, whose hearing is more sensitive than ours. Animal shelters have found that following New

Biden and the border

Joe Biden was elected president and soon enough reversed Donald Trump’s reduction of illegal southern border crossings to the point that we now have the highest influx in 20 years. The human suffering has been excruciating, the publicity has been poisonous and so Biden walked away from the problem, handing it to Vice President Kamala Harris who almost disappeared and has since demonstrated why that was a good idea.

She finally ended up in Guatemala, a primary source of young people risking their lives in tortuous, thug-infested, sometimes deadly desert treks to the United States. Sounding like the audacious Trump himself, Harris said cut it out. Don’t come north anymore. We are not going to let you in. Here are thoughts repulsive to some and a delight to others even if insufficiently backed up with action to keep many out.

Along with smugglers abetting thousands of American drug deaths, illegal immigrants are rushing the border in record numbers even as TV reporters almost seem more on hand to greet them than border agents. One person less in sight than winter snow has been Harris, who didn’t seem to understand when an interviewer asked why she had not gone to the border. She replied with an incomprehensible joke about not going to Europe either. Biden practically invited the immigrants when, among other moves, he freed refugees to wander in America without hearings.

One of Trump’s surge solutions was to immediately move asylum seekers back to Mexico until, in a number of years, judges could apply the law to their eligibility. They seem to have endured grave hurt, but after Biden began undoing the Trump strategy, Harris is saying to refugees “you will be turned back” with Mexico as the only landing place.

Harris is looking at changing the refugee law so it would make things easier for them to sign up in the places they came from and, in my view, that’s good if it happens. Also needed are far more border guards, letting ICE agents be more proactive and even building some technologically alert walls of a kind that have worked in Israel. Listen to a besieged Texas sheriff and you will get a much longer list, and, yes, costs are involved.

But Harris said over and over again that what she really want-

By **MICHELLE KRETZER**

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals



Michelle Kretzer is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; www.PETA.org.

Year’s Eve and the Fourth of July, they receive record numbers of reports from guardians whose animals have jumped fences, torn through screen doors or leapt through windows in an attempt to escape the noise. Many never make it back home. The problem has become so pervasive that last July, animal rescue organizations in Los Angeles set up microchip-scanning stations throughout the city to which residents could take wandering animals in hopes of reuniting them with their families.

But there is an easy solution. And we don’t have to give up our celebrations—or even drastically alter them. This year’s scarcity of fireworks and skyrocketing prices present the perfect opportunity for cities to try out cool laser light shows, which are safer, more eco-friendly and more humane. They’re also more economical, as municipalities can use the same lights year after year to create different dazzling displays. Lasers can mimic traditional fireworks as well as any other image imaginable and can even be choreographed with fountains and music.

And there’s no shortage of options for safe celebrations at home, either. Parenting suggests confetti poppers, glow-in-the-dark bubbles, exploding foam, glow sticks, “fancy sparklers” made from glittery ribbons, and “firecracker goop” made out of Pop Rocks.

We don’t need actual rockets to celebrate Independence Day any more than we need actual ghosts to enjoy Halloween. When one simple change can protect the environment and save countless lives, isn’t it worth a try?

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service



Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.






ed was to get to the “root cause” of the desert treks: living conditions horrible enough for parents to further enrich gangsters guiding their children to northern opportunity.

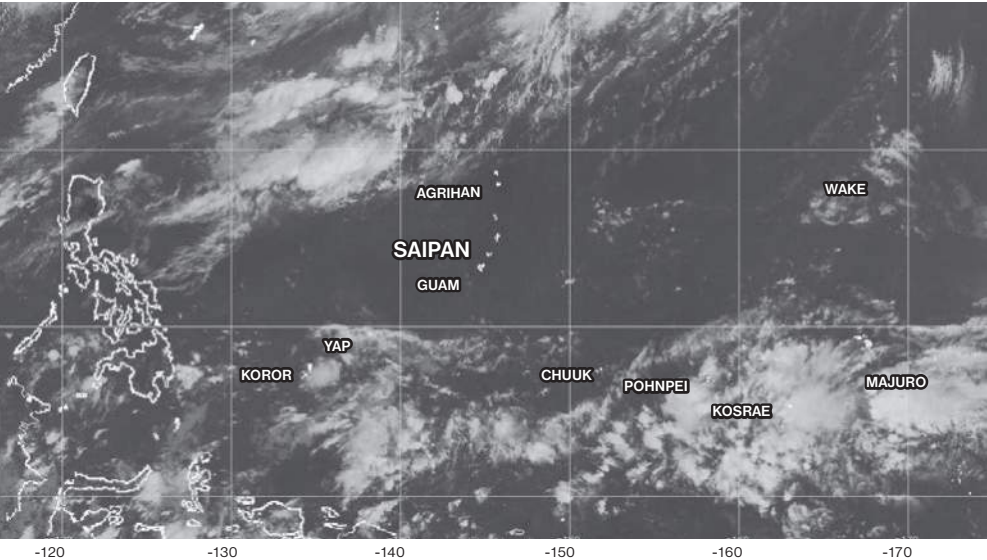
To make things better, Harris said, the United States would hand out \$4 billion over coming years to countries in Central America. We will thereby risk the foreign aid curse of enhancing the luxuries of the powerful elite. Even if the moolah reaches the poor, that’s not enough. It is the honest rule of law that enables a productive economy, and, yes, Harris is demanding reform in a nation that needs it, starting with a corrupt judicial system that will unlikely bend to the lost cause of nation-building that the United States tried for to little noticeable avail.

Past policies of giving money to Latin American countries did not work whereas Trump’s threats of tariffs did, as in getting Mexico to use armed troops to stop immigrant caravans from heading to the United States.

The thing to remember is that a Gallup poll shows 158 million around the world, including 40 million in Latin America, would like to come here. A fraction of that could destroy us, of course, and what we need is enforced immigration rules that serve both the immigrants and our society, such as putting emphasis on merit in skills and education in legal admissions. That does not rule out the poor; there are lots of accomplished people in desperate circumstances and unskilled people would not be eliminated. We should look at the whole world, be fair to all and recognize that especially at a point of Americans not replacing themselves anymore, we can absolutely benefit.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph becoming light in the evening.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers. Light and variable winds.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are moving through the Marianas Waters today. A stationary front is located northwest of the islands, an upper-level low is to the east near 14N157E, and a trade-wind trough is located to the south and west. The buoys reveal combined seas of 1 to 3 feet, composed of slight swells from the east and north.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	89 81 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83 77 °F	
Yap	Mostly cloudy	87 73 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:25 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:11 AM	12:19 PM
Saturday	-	12:51 AM	1:13 PM
Sunday	-	1:32 AM	2:09 PM
Monday	-	2:15 AM	3:08 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	63 53 °F	
Beijing	Rain	85 73 °F	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	87 81 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly cloudy	82 72 °F	
London	Sunny	74 54 °F	
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	77 60 °F	
Manila	Mostly cloudy	87 77 °F	
Melbourne	Cloudy	61 43 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 77 °F	
New York	Partly cloudy	72 60 °F	
Osaka	Mostly sunny	84 66 °F	
Paris	Sunny	84 54 °F	
Pusan	Sunny	90 60 °F	
Rome	Sunny	91 68 °F	
Salem	Overcast	71 52 °F	
San Francisco	Sunny	69 54 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	83 62 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	76 64 °F	
Washington, DC	Overcast	79 68 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:19 AM	High Tide	2.06	
7:17 AM	Low Tide	1.36	
11:28 AM	High Tide	1.71	
6:41 PM	Low Tide	0.27	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>								

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

California marks reopening with jackpots, Hollywood flair

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Welcome back, California.

San Francisco announced the return of its iconic cable cars. Disneyland threw open its doors to out-of-state tourists. And Gov. Gavin Newsom marked the day with Hollywood flair, visiting Universal Studios to celebrate the lifting

of most COVID-19 restrictions and what he called the “full reopening” of the Golden State’s economy Tuesday.

“California has turned the page. Let us all celebrate this remarkable milestone,” an exuberant and mask-less Newsom declared from an outdoor stage at Universal Studios

Hollywood, where he hosted a game show-style selection of 10 residents to receive \$1.5 million apiece, just for getting vaccinated. “Today is a day to reconnect with strangers, loved ones, family members. Give people hugs.”

Life-sized Minions, Avengers and other movie mascots danced and cheered during festivities to mark what Newsom called a new day for California, which was the first state in the country to order a coronavirus lockdown in March 2020 and is among the last to fully reopen. President Joe Biden on Tuesday encouraged nationwide July 4 celebrations to mark the country’s effective return to normalcy.



California Governor Gavin Newsom, center, celebrates with other guests after the Vax for the Win lottery contest during a news conference at Universal Studios in Universal City, Calif., Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

Impatient Democrats prepare to go-it-alone on infrastructure

WASHINGTON (AP)—Patience running thin, Democratic leaders are laying the groundwork for a go-it-alone approach on President Joe Biden’s big jobs and families infrastructure plans even as the White House continues negotiating with Republicans on a much more scaled-back \$1 trillion proposal.

A top White House adviser assured House Democrats during a closed-door session Tuesday that there would be a fresh assessment by next week on where talks stand with the Republicans. But Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced he is moving ahead, huddling privately Wednesday with the Senate Budget Committee

to prepare for July votes on a majority-rules approach as wary Democrats prepare to lift Biden’s \$1.7 billion American Jobs Plan and \$1.8 billion American Families Plan to passage.

Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are trying to calm worries from anxious rank-and-file Democrats that Biden is leaving too much on the table in talks with Republicans. Restless lawmakers want assurances that if they concede to a scaled-back bill with Republicans, it won’t be the last word and the president’s push for investments in climate change strategies, child care centers and other Democratic priorities will proceed—with or without GOP votes.

At midnight, California lifted most of its pandemic restrictions, meaning no more state rules on physical distancing or capacity limits at restaurants, bars, supermarkets, gyms, museums, amusement parks, stadiums or anywhere else. Masks are no longer mandated for vaccinated people in most

settings, though businesses and counties can still require them and other restrictions.

The Democratic governor pointed to the more than 40 million doses of vaccine administered—to more than 70% of the state’s adults—and the resulting plunge in cases as the reason for the reopening.

California currently has one of the nation’s lowest infection rates, below 1%.

The reopening doesn’t necessarily mean people will immediately flock to places and events they once packed or that businesses will opt to return to full capacity.

San Francisco Mayor London

Breed announced that the city’s landmark cable cars will start running again in August, after being halted at the start of the pandemic. Across the street from the cable car stop in Fisherman’s Wharf at the Buena Vista cafe, manager Larry Silva said he wished they would restart sooner, “but that’s what we get.”

Federal judge blocks Biden’s pause on new oil, gas leases

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Biden administration’s suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water was blocked Tuesday by a federal judge in Louisiana who ordered that plans continue for lease sales that were delayed for the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska waters “and all eligible onshore properties.”

The decision is a blow to Democratic President Joe Biden’s efforts to rapidly transition the nation away from fossil fuels and thereby stave off the worst effects of climate change, including catastrophic droughts, floods and wildfires.

U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty’s ruling came in a lawsuit filed in March by Louisiana Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry and officials in 12 other states. Doughty said his ruling applies nationwide. It grants a preliminary injunction—tech-

nically a halt to the suspension pending further arguments on the merits of the case.

“The omission of any rational explanation in cancelling the lease sales, and in enacting the Pause, results in this Court ruling that Plaintiff States also have a substantial likelihood of success on the merits of this claim,” he wrote.

“We are reviewing the judge’s opinion and will comply with the decision,” Melissa Schwartz of the Interior Department said in an email. “The Interior Department continues to work on an interim report that will include initial findings on the state of the federal conventional energy programs, as well as outline next steps and recommendations for the Department and Congress to improve stewardship of public lands and waters, create jobs, and build a just and equitable energy future.”

Study: Half of US cosmetics contain toxic chemicals

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than half the cosmetics sold in the United States and Canada are awash with a toxic industrial compound associated with serious health conditions, including cancer and reduced birth weight, according to a new study. Researchers at the University of Notre Dame tested more than 230 commonly used cosmetics and found that 56% of foundations and eye products, 48% of lip products and 47% of mascaras contained fluorine—an indicator of PFAS, so-called “forever chemicals” that are used in nonstick frying pans, rugs and countless other consumer products. Some of the highest PFAS levels were found in waterproof mascara (82%) and long-lasting lipstick (62%), according to the study published Tuesday in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters. Twenty-nine products with higher fluorine concentrations were tested further and found to contain between

four and 13 specific PFAS chemicals, the study found. Only one item listed PFAS, or perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, as an ingredient on the label.

Jury deciding if immigration detainees must get minimum wage

SEATTLE (AP)—A federal jury is deciding whether one of the nation’s biggest private prison companies must pay minimum wage—instead of \$1 a day—to immigration detainees who perform tasks like cooking and cleaning at its jail in Washington state. Democratic Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson sued the Florida-based GEO Group in 2017, saying the company had unjustly profited by running the Northwest detention center in Tacoma on the backs of captive workers. A separate lawsuit filed on behalf of detainees was also filed that year, seeking back pay. Tacoma-based U.S. District Judge Robert Bryan, who rejected several attempts by GEO to dismiss the law-

suits, consolidated the cases for trial, which he conducted via Zoom because of the pandemic. “What GEO is doing to exploit captive detainee workers at the Northwest detention center is for real—and at a massive scale,” Assistant Attorney General Andrea Brenneke told the jury in closing arguments Tuesday. “GEO could easily pay detainee workers the minimum wage and still make millions of dollars in profits from the facility each year.” GEO’s response is that the detainees simply aren’t employees. Even if they were, the company says, it would be unlawfully discriminatory for Washington to require GEO to pay them minimum wage—now \$13.69 an hour—when the state doesn’t pay minimum wage to inmates who work at its own prisons or other detention facilities.

Bezos’ ex-wife, Scott, gives millions to 2 Chicago colleges

CHICAGO (AP)—Two Chicago educational institutions have received donations from philanthropist MacK-

enzie Scott, the largest gifts from a single person in their histories, officials said Tuesday. Kennedy-King College, a branch of City Colleges of Chicago, was given \$5 million by Scott. The University of Illinois-Chicago received \$40 million from the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. “Ms. Scott’s extremely generous donation will advance the lives of students who are poised to make great contributions to our city, our state and our world,” said UIC Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis. “Her gift is a vote of confidence in the mission of public higher education and in UIC.” City College officials say the money is the largest single private donation ever given Kennedy-King. The donation is part of \$2.7 billion given to 286 organizations by Scott. Forbes Magazine has reported Kennedy-King College, which serves a largely African-American student body, is considered one of the top 10 community colleges in the country as determined by Academic Influence.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

34,299.33

-0.27%

-94.42

S&P

4,246.59

0.20%

-8.56

NASDAQ

14,072.86

0.71%

-101.29

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar

1.2999

British Pound

0.7100

Canadian Dollar

1.2179

Chinese Yuan

6.3020

Euro

0.8244

Hong Kong Dollar

7.7610

Indian Rupee

72.9749

Japanese Yen

110.0820

Malaysian Ringgit

4.0854

New Zealand Dollar

1.4005

Philippine Peso

47.2784

Russian Ruble

71.2445

Singapore Dollar

1.3272

South Korean Won

1096.715

Swiss Franc

0.8986

Taiwan Dollar

27.3073

Thailand Baht

31.1690

Nation

Buoyed by allied summits, Biden ready to take on Putin

GENEVA (AP)—Fresh from supportive summits with allies, Joe Biden declared himself ready Tuesday to take on Russia's Vladimir Putin in far more confrontational talks—a climactic finish to the most important week of meetings in his young presidency.

Biden meets for his first talks as president with the Russian leader on Wednesday, in what's expected to be roughly a half-day of discussions between the two leaders and aides behind closed doors. That's after spending much of a weeklong European trip—the foreign policy highlight of his presidency so far—working to strengthen ties with like-minded partner nations in order to better deal with rivals Russia and China.

A reporter soon after Biden's arrival in Geneva on Tuesday shouted out a question on whether he was ready for Wednesday's talks. "I am always ready," Biden answered.

The American leader reached Geneva following rounds of cordial elbow bumping, grinning photo sessions and close consultations with global leaders at the Group of Seven, NATO and U.S.-European Union summits. He secured a series of joint communiques expressing concern over Russia and China, and was at the EU on Tuesday to preside over the announce-



U.S. President Joe Biden arrives in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, June 15, 2021 one day before the US - Russia summit.

ment of a breakthrough easing a long-running U.S. aircraft trade dispute with that bloc.

As for Russia, the U.S. and the EU declared they "stand united in our principled approach" to the longtime rival, "ready to respond decisively to its repeating pattern of negative behavior and harmful activities."

Biden's European tour has aimed to restore U.S. partnerships that were damaged under former President Donald Trump, who openly invited what American intelligence

services said was Russian interference in U.S. political campaigns, and who sought out Putin and other autocrats he saw as strong.

In line with the chilly-so-far Biden-Putin relationship—Putin's government responded with indignation earlier this year after Biden said he considered the Russian a "killer"—the two men plan neither lunch nor dinner together, and no joint press conference after, in what's expected to be their four to five hours together.

That's in contrast to this

week's G-7 session hosted by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, where the allies and their spouses held a beach barbecue and round after round of "family photos."

According to a senior administration official granted anonymity to disclose internal discussions, Biden is hoping to find small areas of agreement with the Russian president, including potentially returning ambassadors to Washington and Moscow.

That and other diplomatic issues, including the tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats and closure of consulates, will be high on the agenda for both sides.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

The U.S. ambassador to Russia, John Sullivan, a rare holdover from the Trump administration, and Anatoly Antonov, the Russian ambassador to Washington, will both be in Geneva for the summit.

The two men departed their posts earlier this year as part of what both Russia and the United States describe as an

all-time low in the two countries' relationship.

In addition, Russia has complained for years about its eviction and loss of consulates in San Francisco and Seattle and other facilities in Maryland and New York. The U.S., meanwhile, has been forced to close its consulate in St. Petersburg and is now facing the loss of Russian citizens employed by its embassy in Moscow, which will significantly reduce the consular services it is able to provide.

Biden also is looking to make progress on a new arms control agreement between the two nations, which agreed to a five-year extension of the remaining current pact in January.

Putin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov sought to moderate expectations for the summit, but he strongly emphasized its importance given the current tensions.

NY lifts more COVID-19 rules as it hits vaccination mark

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Tuesday that 70% of adults in New York have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, a threshold he said the state would celebrate by easing many of its remaining social distancing rules and shooting off fireworks.

"What does 70% mean? It means that we can now return to life as we know it," Cuomo told an invitation-only crowd at the World Trade Center in Manhattan.

Effective immediately, he said, the state is lifting rules that required many types of businesses to follow cleaning protocols or take people's temperatures or screen them for recent COVID-19 symptoms.

Movie theaters will no longer have to leave empty seats between patrons. Restaurants will no longer be forced to sit parties at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart. Stores won't have to limit how many customers they admit. New York had previously allowed businesses to stop enforcing social distancing and mask rules for vaccinated patrons.

Some rules will remain: New Yorkers, for now, will continue to have to wear masks in schools, subways, large sports arenas, homeless shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, jails and prisons. Unvaccinated New Yorkers will still be subject to a mask mandate while indoors in

public places.

Cuomo, a Democrat, said there would be fireworks displays around the state Tuesday evening to celebrate and honor essential workers.

New York has, essentially, been at that 70 percent mark for days. It reached 69.5% of adults vaccinated Saturday, and 69.9% on Monday.

But Cuomo said New York would remember Tuesday, June 15—also the birthdate of his late father, the former Gov. Mario Cuomo—as the date when New York "rose again."

It's unclear how many more people have to get vaccinated to reach herd immunity from the coronavirus, which is when so many people are resistant to the virus that it has trouble spreading.

Many experts say it's 70% or higher. So far, about 50 percent of New Yorkers, of all ages, are fully vaccinated, according to federal data.

Dr. Anna Bershteyn, professor of population health at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine said the rise of more contagious variants could mean that as much as 85% of the population will need to be vaccinated for herd immunity.

She urged the public to keep avoiding crowded, poorly ventilated indoor spaces in less-vaccinated communities. (AP)

Video shows man apologized before Honolulu police shot him

HONOLULU (AP)—Doorbell camera video obtained and made public by lawyers representing the family of a man fatally shot two months ago by Honolulu police provides more information about the events that unfolded before the deadly encounter with officers.

The footage shows that he arrived at a house, took off his shoes, entered the home and then quickly left after his presence confused the occupants. He repeatedly apologized.

After police killed Lindani Myeni in April, his widow filed a wrongful death lawsuit alleging officers were motivated by racial discrimination

because her unarmed South African husband was Black.

The shooting happened three months after Lindani and Lindsay Myeni moved to Hawaii, where she grew up. The couple believed Hawaii's diversity would make it the safest U.S. state to raise their two Black children, she said.

After the April 14 shooting, police said Lindani Myeni's strange behavior frightened the occupants and that he violently attacked responding police officers, leaving one hospitalized with a concussion.

Police later released short clips of body camera footage, showing him ignoring commands to get on the ground

outside the house he entered, a stun gun fired by police either malfunctioning or having no effect on him. The police video showed that an officer fired several gunshots before saying, "Police!"

Police officials didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday after the widow's lawyers released the video. Now-retired chief Susan Ballard previously said that Myeni's race wasn't a factor in the fatal shooting.

"Mr. Myeni's death is tragic," Mayor Rick Blangiardi said in a statement. "We await both sides making their arguments in court, consequently I have no further comment at

inside from gunshot wounds, the Cedar Rapids Police Department said.

The victims were identified as 61-year-old Jan Perry Jackson; his wife, 68-year-old Melissa Ferne Jackson; and the couple's 19-year-old daughter, Sabrina Hana Jackson.

Alexander Jackson, 20, was found at the home suffering

from a gunshot wound to the foot and taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Police said he was released from the hospital late Tuesday and taken to the Linn County jail. Alexander Jackson has been charged with three counts of first-degree murder, which carries a sentence of life in prison without parole.

It was not immediately known if Jackson had an attorney to speak on his behalf.

The home is located in a quiet, suburban neighborhood about a half-mile from Cedar Rapids Xavier High School on the northern side of the city. Property records show that the family has lived there for a decade.

Iowa man, 20, charged in shooting deaths of parents, sister

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)—A 20-year-old Iowa man shot and killed his parents and his younger sister at the family's Cedar Rapids home, and has been taken into custody, police said late Tuesday.

Officers who responded to the home after receiving a call at 8:23 a.m. Tuesday found three family members dead

Asia

China set to send its first crew to new space station Thursday

JIUQUAN, China (AP)—China is set to send the first three crew members to its new space station Thursday morning and envisions growing international cooperation on the ambitious project, a space agency official said Wednesday.

Two of the astronauts flew in previous missions while the third is going to space for the first time, China Manned Space Agency Assistant Director Ji Qiming told reporters at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern China.

“Exploring the vast universe, developing space activities building a powerful space nation is our unrelenting space dream,” Ji said.

“The construction and operation of China’s space station will raise our technologies and accumulate experience for all the people. It is a positive contribution by China for human exploration of the universe, peaceful utilization of outer space and push forward the building of a community of shared future for mankind,” he said.

Thursday’s launch begins the first crewed space mission in five years for an increasingly ambitious space program. China has sent 11 astronauts into



Chinese astronauts, from left, Tang Hongbo, Nie Haisheng, and Liu Boming wave at a press conference at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center ahead of the Shenzhou-12 launch from Jiuquan in northwestern China, Wednesday, June 16, 2021. AP

space since becoming the third country to do so on its own in 2003 and has sent orbiters and rovers to the moon and Mars.

The astronauts will be traveling in the Shenzhou-12 spaceship launched by a Long March-2F Y12 rocket set to blast off at 9:22 a.m. (0122 GMT).

They will spend three months living on the orbiting Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, station, conducting spacewalks, maintenance work and science experiments. The first Tianhe crew are men but women will be part of future crews, officials have said.

The mission is the third of 11 planned through next year to add sections to the station and send up crews and supplies. The main living section of the station was launched in April and the other two modules are due to be launched next year.

Beijing doesn’t participate in the International Space Station, largely due to U.S. concerns over the Chinese program’s secrecy and its military connections. Despite that, foreign science missions and possibly foreign astronauts are expected to visit the Chinese station in future.

accountability. A leading Duterte critic, jailed opposition Sen. Leila de Lima, said the Philippine leader may now be harboring fears of “being dragged in chains to the Hague” to be tried as “an enemy of mankind.” Outgoing ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said Monday that a preliminary examination found reason to believe crimes against humanity had been committed during Duterte’s crackdown on drugs between July 1, 2016, and March 16, 2019. The dates cover the period between when Duterte launched his police-enforced crackdown shortly after winning a six-year presidential term and when he withdrew the Philippines from the court. Critics said at the time he was trying to avoid accountability.

Kim warns of ‘tense’ food situation, longer COVID lockdown

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned about possible food shortages and called for his people to brace for extended COVID-19 restrictions as he opened a major political conference to discuss national efforts to salvage a broken economy. The North’s official Korean Central News Agency also said Wednesday that Kim called for discussions on how the North should deal with the “current international situation,” though it did not mention any specific comments from Kim about the United States or South Korea. North Korea has so far ignored the allies’ calls to resume nuclear negotiations that have stalled for two years following the collapse of Kim’s ambitious summitry with former President Donald Trump, which derailed over disagreements in exchanging relief from crippling U.S.-led sanctions with denuclearization steps by the North.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar prosecutors present sedition charge against Suu Kyi

BANGKOK (AP)—Prosecutors in the trial of deposed Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi presented arguments on Tuesday that she incited public disorder and flouted coronavirus restrictions, part of a package of charges the ruling military junta is seen as using to discredit her and consolidate its control. Suu Kyi and other members of her government and party were arrested by the military after its Feb. 1 coup, and criminal charges were brought against some of the top figures on a litany of charges that their supporters and independent observers say are bogus. The coup reversed years of democratic reforms following decades of harsh military rule and sparked widespread protests and international condemnation. Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party had been due to start a second five-year term in office after winning a landslide victory in a general election last November. Suu Kyi has not been seen in public since her arrest, and her lawyers say they don’t know exactly where she is currently being held. She has also had only limited time to consult with her legal team.

Philippines: Int’l court probe of drug killings is insulting

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte will never cooperate with a possible International Criminal Court investigation into the thousands of killings under his anti-drugs crackdown, his spokesman said Tuesday, calling an international inquiry insulting to the country’s justice system. But human rights activists welcomed the possible investigation as a long-awaited step toward justice and

World

Israeli airstrikes target Gaza sites, in a 1st since cease-fire

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli aircraft carried out a series of airstrikes at militant sites in the Gaza Strip early Wednesday, the first such raids since a shaky cease-fire ended the war with Hamas last month.

The airstrikes targeted facilities used by Hamas militants for meetings to plan attacks, the Israeli military said, blaming the group for any act of violence emanating from Gaza. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

On Tuesday, hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists, some chanting “Death to Arabs,” paraded in east Jerusalem in a show of force that threatened to spark renewed violence. Palestinians in Gaza responded by launching incendiary balloons that caused at least 10 fires in southern Israel.

The march posed a test for Israel’s fragile new government as well as the tenuous truce that ended last month’s 11-day war between Israel and Hamas.

Palestinians consider the march, meant to celebrate Israel’s capture of east Jerusalem in 1967, to be a provocation. Hamas called on Palestinians to “resist” the parade, a version of which helped ignite last month’s 11-day Gaza war.

With music blaring, hundreds of Jewish nationalists gathered and moved in front of Damascus Gate. Most appeared to be young men, and many held blue-and-white Israeli flags as they danced



Israeli Knesset members Bezalel Smotrich, center, waves an Israeli flag together with other Jewish ultranationalists during the “Flags March” next to Damascus gate, outside Jerusalem’s Old City, Tuesday, June 15, 2021. AP

and sang religious songs.

At one point, several dozen youths, jumping and waving their hands in the air, chanted: “Death to Arabs!” In another anti-Arab chant, they yelled: “May your village burn.”

In a scathing condemnation on Twitter, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said those shouting racist slogans were “a disgrace to the Israeli people,” adding: “The fact that there are radicals for whom the Israeli flag represents hatred and racism is abominable and unforgivable.”

The crowd, while boisterous, appeared to be much smaller than during last month’s parade. From the Damascus Gate, they proceeded around the Old City to the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray.

Ahead of the march, Israeli police cleared the area in front of Damascus Gate, shut down roads to traffic, ordered shops to close and sent away

young Palestinian protesters. Police said that officers arrested 17 people suspected of involvement in violence, some of whom threw rocks and attacked police, and that two police officers needed medical treatment. Palestinians said five people were hurt in clashes with police.

The parade provided an early challenge for Israel’s new prime minister, Naftali Bennett, a hardline Israeli nationalist who has promised a pragmatic approach as he presides over a delicate, diverse coalition government.

Though there were concerns the march would raise tensions, canceling it would have opened Bennett and other right-wing members of the coalition to intense criticism from those who would view it as a capitulation to Hamas. The coalition was sworn in Sunday and includes parties from across the political spectrum, including a small Arab party.

36 hurt in car bomb blast in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—A car bomb exploded inside a military base in the Colombian border town of Cucuta on Tuesday, leaving 36 people injured, including three in critical condition, officials said.

During an emergency visit to the base, Defense Minister Diego Molano described the blast as a “vile terrorist attack” that targeted Colombian soldiers and sought to injure as many troops as possible.

The U.S. Embassy in Bogota wrote on its Twitter account that a small group of American military personnel were at the base when the explosion occurred but were not harmed. The U.S. soldiers were there to conduct training exercises, the embassy said.

Molano said the National Liberation Army, Colombia’s largest remaining rebel group, was likely behind the attack, though he did not provide any evidence to support that claim.

He also said dissident members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a group that signed a peace deal with the government in 2016, could have been involved.

Cucuta is located on the border with Venezuela and is the capital of North Santander state, where several criminal groups are fighting over drug trafficking routes and use the loosely patrolled border with Venezuela to smuggle fuel and weapons.

Last year a group of U.S. military trainers and advisers

from the First Security Force Assistance Brigade spent time at the base that was bombed Tuesday, where they helped the Colombian military to plan anti narcotics operations.

Videos posted on social media showed dark columns of smoke rising from the base followed by a loud explosion that shattered windows and destroyed offices.

The explosion comes as antigovernment protests appear to wind down in Colombia, with protest leaders announcing Tuesday that they will suspend marches that have been going on for seven weeks. At least 50 people have died in the protests over poverty and growing inequality, which started on April 28.

Environment

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Hundreds flocked to the Civic Center in Susupe last Saturday to take part in the first ever Ocean Fair on island, organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to celebrate the CNMI Ocean Month of June.

The fair featured booths from Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Friends of the Mariana Trench, Northern Mariana College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, the Sea Turtle Program of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, BECQ, and the Commonwealth



Coastal Resources Management director Janice Castro shows off a banner at the first ever annual CNMI Ocean Fair, held at the Civic Center in Susupe last Saturday.

IVA MAURIN



IVA MAURIN

Endangered Species Program manager Lisa Sztukowski talks about the importance of protecting sea turtles at the CNMI Ocean Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe. Anyone who sees turtles being harassed, or for those who have any information on poaching incidents, should call the CNMI Sea Turtle Hotline at 287-8537.



IVA MAURIN

Children get free swimming lessons from Swim for Life at the first ever annual CNMI Ocean Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



IVA MAURIN

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture does live demonstrations and on-the-spot weaving lessons at the first CNMI Ocean Fair, held at the Civic Center in Susupe last Saturday.

Council for Arts and Culture.

"The ocean is a big part of our culture. As island communities, the ocean is super important to us because it's a source of our economy, sustenance, recreation. It supports our tourism, which obviously is one of the largest economic drivers in the CNMI," said Janice Castro, Coastal Resources Management director, who added that the fair is meant to give community members an opportunity to experience, or use the ocean resource in ways that they do not or would not do normally.

Castro added that they want to ensure that the community knows how important the ocean is beyond just being a place to swim and have picnics during the weekends—the ocean is "more than just a playground"; it is a source of food for the table and supports the island economically.

"In taking care of the [ocean's] health, not just the quality of the water, we want to make sure that the marine life in there are healthy too so that they all balance each other. They need each other, just the way that we need it."

Protecting marine species

One of the marine lives that badly need to be protected are turtles, which, based on the last estimates of the CNMI Sea Turtle Program, now only run between 55 and 65 in numbers, with only about 12 turtles that come to nest here every year.

According to Endangered Species Program manager Lisa Sztukowski, sea turtles are a part of the local culture in that people used to eat them for special occasions. Now, however, the taking of any sea turtle of any size class is



IVA MAURIN

Rota CRM's Bill Pendergrass giving talaya lessons to children and interested members of the community at the first-ever annual CNMI Ocean Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe. Rota is scheduled to have its Ocean Fair on Saturday, June 26, from 8am to 2pm, at Teteto Beach.

against the law, with fines and penalties ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000, and up to six months imprisonment.

"It's illegal to harass turtles. It's illegal to have parts of them, and it's illegal to hunt them. ...If we want sea turtles to be part of the CNMI culture, we need to protect them. It's not only federal but also locally. It's very important because we have a small population that nests on the islands."

Anyone who sees turtles being harassed, or for those who have any information of poaching incidents should call the CNMI Sea Turtle Hotline at 287-8537.

Sztukowski shared the plight of Wake Island as an example. During World War II, the Japanese on island, cut off from their food, began eating albatrosses and sea turtles, which then disappeared from the island. To this day, she added, no sea turtles have been found nesting on the island.

"Once they're gone, they're pretty much gone forever. It's very important to protect the future...if we want them on the island, for cultural purposes [and] also economic, because they bring a lot of the tourism. They're very important to the islands."

It's in the culture

Aside from the educational booths, ocean activities were also offered at the Saipan Ocean Fair last Saturday. Community members, especially children, got treated to a day of free canoe rides, standup paddling, swimming, snorkeling, and talaya lessons, from the Marianas Outriggers Club, the NMI Paddle Sports Federation, and Swim for Life, among many others.



IVA MAURIN

Children (and their parents too!) learn about the environment in a fun way—just like this mom-and-child pair learning how storm drains and healthy watersheds work, at the CNMI Ocean Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Billy Grow of the Marianas Outrigger Club, who was one of the volunteers giving the children free canoe riding lessons, stressed the importance of passing on ocean knowledge and experience to the next generations.

"Canoeing is in our culture, outrigger is in our culture, and we want to be able to pass this on. It's only as good as the knowledge we pass on to every generation," he said.

Grow added that if people keep taking the ocean for granted and it becomes polluted, no one will be able to use and enjoy it. "Everybody is responsible, everybody's a custodian. We're all in this together. We all live on the same island chain and we're only as strong as our weakest point, so if everybody's together, everything works."

The Ocean Fair will also be held on Tinian this Saturday, June 19, from 11am to 3pm, at the Jones Beach-Fiesta Ground; and on Rota on Saturday, June 26, from 8am to 2pm, at Teteto Beach. This event is free and open to the public. For additional information about the Ocean Fair, contact Colleen Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or at 664-8300/16.



IVA MAURIN

Friends of the Mariana Trench's Project HOPE interns are all busy as children come to their booth to learn about fishing and other ways to help protect the ocean, at the CNMI Ocean Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



IVA MAURIN

Division of Environmental Quality's Larry Maurin demonstrates how to make water quality measurements at the first ever annual CNMI Ocean Fair, at the Civic Center in Susupe last Saturday.



IVA MAURIN

The Marianas Outrigger Club giving free canoe riding lessons at the CNMI Ocean Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Learning is fun at the
Ocean Fair

Life & Style

'Gone Girl' actor Lisa Banes dies 10 days after hit-and-run

NEW YORK (AP)—"Gone Girl" actor Lisa Banes died 10 days after being injured by a hit-and-run driver in New York City, police said.

The 65-year-old Banes, who was struck by a scooter or motorcycle while crossing a street on June 4, died

Monday at Mount Sinai Morningside Hospital, a police department spokesperson said. The driver did not stop, police said.

Banes appeared in numerous television shows and movies, including "Gone Girl" in 2014 and "Cocktail"

with Tom Cruise in 1988. On television, she had roles on "Nashville," "Madam Secretary," "Masters of Sex" and "NCIS."

She acted on stage regularly,



Banes

including Broadway appearances in the Neil Simon play "Rumors" in 1988, in the musical "High Society" in 1998 and in the Noel Coward play "Present Laughter" in 2010.

Her manager, Da-

vid Williams, said Banes was hit as she was crossing Amsterdam Avenue on the way to visit the Juilliard School, her alma mater.

Banes lived in Los Angeles and was married to Kathryn Kranhold, a contributing reporter for the Center for Public Integrity.

Friends and colleagues mourned Banes on Tuesday on Twitter.

"Just busted," singer Jill Sobule tweeted. "Lisa Banes was magnificent, hilarious, and big-hearted - always helped me through the hard times. She was so beloved by so many."

Jared Kushner has book deal, publication expected in 2022

NEW YORK (AP)—Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of former President Donald Trump and one of his top advisers during his administration, has a book deal.

Broadside Books, a conservative imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, announced that Kushner's book will come out in early 2022. Kushner has begun working on the memoir, currently untitled, and is expected to write about everything from the Middle East to criminal justice reform to the pandemic.

"His book will be the definitive, thorough recounting of the administration—and the truth about what happened behind closed doors," Broadside announced Tuesday.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

Kushner was often at the center of the Trump administration's policies—whether brokering the normalization of relationships between Israel and United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco—the so-called Abraham Accords—or playing a key

role in a criminal justice bill passed by Congress in 2018. He has also been the subject of numerous controversies, whether for his financial dealings and potential conflicts of interest or for the administration's widely criticized handling of COVID-19.

In April 2020, less than two months into the pandemic, Kushner labeled the White House response a "great success story," dismissed "the eternal lockdown crowd" and also said: "I think you'll see by June a lot of the country should be back to normal and the hope is that by July the country's really rocking again."

The signing of Kushner comes during an ongoing debate within the book industry over which Trump officials, notably Trump himself, can be taken on without starting a revolt at the publishing house. Thousands of Simon & Schuster employees and authors signed an open letter this spring condemning the publisher's decision to sign up former Vice President Mike Pence.



Kushner

Media consumers may be reaching limit of streaming services

A British research company may have discovered a magic number for American media consumers—and it's seven.

That's seven streaming services, paid or free, that consumers are willing to subscribe to before the hassle of keeping track of log-ins and passwords just becomes too much, said Maria Rua Agute,

senior research director at the London-based media consultancy OMDIA.

For the past few years, OMDIA has been monitoring the average number of streaming services that online homes subscribe to, and it rose steadily from around 5 to 7.23 in the United States last November. But the latest survey, com-

pleted in April, showed that number had dropped to 7.06.

"It's not that people want to watch less," Rua Agute said. "But people don't like to keep so many streaming services and log-ins."

If true, if seven is indeed the number where many consumers will draw the line, that has enormous business

implications. It increases the importance of aggregators, or services where people can seamlessly collect their services, and make it harder for new companies to get into the business. It can also be the impetus for big business deals, like last month's announced merger between Discovery and WarnerMedia.

Famous German boys' choir to add separate choir for girls

BERLIN (AP)—One of Germany's most famous Catholic boys' choirs, the Regensburg Cathedral Choir, plans to establish a separate choral group for girls for the first time in its more than 1000-year history.

"We are happy to welcome girls in the future," choir director Christian Heiss said in

a statement Tuesday, adding that the so-called Regensburg Cathedral Sparrows still would be open only to boys and remain the No. 1 choir.

Girls can apply to the new choir from the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. They will also have to attend the high school that is connected

to the choir.

The Regensburg choir was founded around the year 975 and is thought to be one of the oldest boys' choirs in the world.

Choir members have toured the world, including trips to the Vatican, the United States, Canada, Poland and Japan,

and performed for Queen Elizabeth II and Pope John Paul II.

In 2010, allegations surfaced about the use of corporal punishment on boys in the choir. Georg Ratzinger, the brother of Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, who led the choir for many years, apologized for the abuse.

Judge OKs Weinstein's extradition for California rape case

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A New York judge on Tuesday approved disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein's extradition to California, where he faces additional sexual assault charges, ending a legal fight prolonged by the COVID-19 pandemic, the defense's concerns about Weinstein's failing health and a squabble

over paperwork.

Judge Kenneth Case said there was no reason to delay Weinstein's transfer any longer, denying his lawyer's request to keep him at a state prison near Buffalo — where he is serving a 23-year sentence for a rape conviction last year — until

the start of jury selection in the Los Angeles case.



Weinstein

Los Angeles authorities plan to collect Weinstein, 69, from the Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, New York, at the end of June or in early July, prosecutors said at Tuesday's extradition hearing in Buffalo, giving

Weinstein's lawyer time to appeal Judge Case's decision.

Weinstein's lawyer, Norman Effman, argued he should remain in Wende's hospital-like maximum-security setting while receiving treatment for maladies including a loss of eyesight, rather than being shipped cross-country to a Los Angeles jail cell. His suggestion that Weinstein instead be arraigned by video was also rejected.

Wedding plans cover almost everything

DEAR ABBY: I am getting married, and my fiancée's daughters, 19 and 21, are in the wedding party. I have purchased the dresses they are wearing, which are light and flowing. I have told the girls that on the day of the wedding I do not want them wearing thong underwear. The older one then went to her dad and said she didn't want to wear regular underwear. He told her she could wear whatever she wants. I have tried telling them that as young ladies there are times you don't wear thongs, and under a flowing dress is one of them. It's ONE DAY of their lives. How can I get my point across?

WISE BRIDE IN PHOENIX

DEAR WISE BRIDE: Explain to your fiancée exactly WHY you are concerned about his daughters wearing thong underwear under their bridesmaid dresses and, when you do, be graphic. After that, if he still feels the same, accept it. Then pray no slip-ups occur while they are dancing, and no strong gusts of wind come along when the wedding photos are taken.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm dating a lady and committed to our relationship, but every time I visit her at her apartment, she expects me to take her dog out. The building has a policy that if the dog

poops, you have to pick it up and dispose of it, so they have bags at different locations.

I don't like doing it. I grew up on a farm where we had dogs, but never would I think about picking up their poop. It grosses me out. OK, so I have been doing it for a couple of years, but I don't want to do it anymore. But if I say that or don't do it, she'll think I'm not committed to her. What should I do?

DOG WALKING IN TEXAS

DEAR DOG WALKING: Stand up for yourself. Because you feel so strongly, tell her that from now on you will walk her dog TOGETHER or she'll have to do it herself. You may have been raised on a farm, but you are now part of a community with ordinances against leaving excrement on the streets. Your devotion to this person should not be predicated upon your willingness to perform a task she should have been doing herself.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are having a minor argument, and we are seeking your help in resolving it. We live in an age when we commonly experience "conversations" with robocalls, virtual assistants (Alexa and Echo) and phone routing software. All this technology is powered by artificial intelligence. So given that we are talking to machines, do we need to

DEAR ABBY

By **Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



follow the rules of etiquette with these robots? My wife insists we should say "Thank you" and "Please" to these software creations, while I say no manners are needed. Your thoughts?

MULLING IT OVER IN MONTANA

DEAR MULLING IT: Although it isn't mandatory, I know of at least one AI "assistant" that would acknowledge the courtesy.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



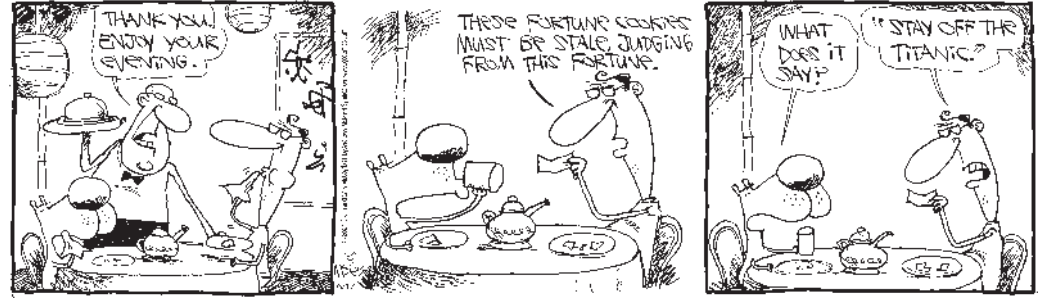
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Heights of fashion? 5 Lanka lead-in 8 Old portico 12 Acknowledged 13 WWII service member 14 Denny's rival 15 Swampy terrain 16 Consumed 17 Aug. follower 18 Shower unit 20 Family 22 Shenanigans 26 Author Puzo 29 "Kid-napped" monogram 30 Old Oldsmobile 31 Bassoon's kin

DOWN

32 Scoundrel 33 KOA patron 34 Privy 35 "— was saying ..." 36 1980s Attorney General 37 Gin cocktail 40 Marathon fraction 41 League newbie 45 Bog fuel 47 Stir-fry pan 49 Pealed 50 Deco artist 51 Rage

DOWN

52 Small combo 53 Casual tops 54 Blue 55 Pre-college exams 1 Soccer star Mia 2 Pop singer 3 Humorist Sahl 4 Hon 5 Honey bunch? 6 Snitch 7 Freezing 8 Twine fiber

9 "How dare they!" 10 "Alley —" 11 Likely 19 Tic-tac-toe win 21 Part of UCLA 23 Delicate 24 Roger of "Cheers" 25 Days gone by 26 Shed 27 "Peek—!" 28 Oscar, to Felix 32 Narnia's creator 33 Spas 35 MSN rival 36 6 on a phone 38 Refers to 39 Ticked off 42 Supergirl's first name 43 "What's — for me?" 44 Conceits 45 Favorite 46 Before 48 — pro nobis

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Venus Williams, 41; Nahnatchka Khan, 48; Will Forte, 51; Barry Manilow, 78.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind, and be prepared to make adjustments as you move forward. Let the element of surprise be what energizes you and pushes you to try harder and adapt to whatever comes your way. Think outside the box, but don't tread too far off the beaten track. Live by the rules and the honor code, and good things will transpire. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 26, 34, 42, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Update the way you live and how you spend your spare time. Focus on physical exercise that will help build strength. Take a unique approach to the way you live, and choose to make your life less stressful. Align with nature. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do something that will boost your need to get things done. A change will help you regenerate and give you a sense of purpose. Put a plan in place that will encourage stability and peace of mind. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't believe everything you hear. Look at the fine print before you agree to something that can disrupt your life. Discipline and hard work will bring you the highest returns. Know what you want, and do what's necessary to reach your destination. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make your home a place of love, tranquility and happiness. Embrace the uniqueness you surround yourself with and the people you cherish.

Share feelings with loved ones, and make adjustments that will bring you peace of mind. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be observant and seek the truth. Share only the information you can verify. Walk away from controversy that serves no purpose. Focus on personal growth and reaching the goal you set for yourself. Finish what you start, and live up to your expectations. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Question anything that sounds too good to be valid. Get what you want in writing to avoid disappointment. Be honest with yourself about the way you feel about life and love. Make changes that are conducive to your happiness. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An open mind will absorb valuable information. Show restraint when dealing with people who are incapable of change and reluctant to compromise. Go about your business and do things your way, and you'll avoid interference. Don't take unnecessary risks. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Offer assistance, and something good will transpire. Someone you connect with will offer valuable information that will change the way you live life and adjust to the changes going on around you. Take a unique route, and you'll find peace of mind. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful when dealing with partners, colleagues or anyone who doesn't share your opinion. Keep your head down and work diligently toward whatever goal you set. Do whatever

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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er will suit you best and help you get ahead. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stretch your legs, go for a hike, take in the scenery and mull over what it is you want to pursue. Unique ideas will encourage you to try something new and to get involved with individuals who share your concerns and interests. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you share with who. Someone will offer you a false impression. Take the initiative to do your research and cultivate your ideas to suit your needs. Trust and believe in you and your ability to excel. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check out what's going on in your life before you criticize someone. Truth matters, and being able to rely on those closest to you will make a difference. Ask questions and offer straight answers, and you'll know what to do next. ***

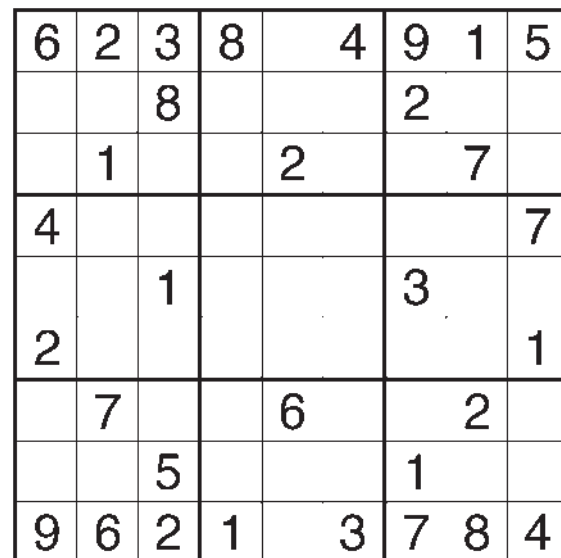
Birthday Baby: You are determined, innovative and trendy. You are entertaining and persuasive.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☽: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☿: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♊: Aim high; start new projects. ♋: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

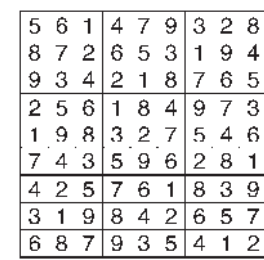
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ***

6/17

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHAT'S YOUR VOCATION?

Solution: 10 letters

R F P P R O F E S S I O N E K Y
O E A M B I T I O N K C T R E
V E S B S E O R C Y I N T O M
A L S P I T L C O V E S A W A
E I I T O L R B R L U A I C G
D N O A N N I E A D E S R N K
N G N U S E S T N T H T I N P
E E S L U P M I Y G I H R H
A G I F T R I N B J T U T O
E D T I E O E R G I O H S B
H O O A F W E E A I L B O B L
C D S F I E L D R T S I P Y L
I O I T A S K S A A I S T L I
N C Q U E S T F A R C O A Y K
E R I S E D R E A M T C N N S

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6/17

Ability, Ambition, Aspiration, Assignment, Call, Career, Craft, Desire, Dodge, Dream, Endeavor, Feeling, Field, Fit, Forte, Game, Gift, Hobby, Impulse, Industry, Job, Knack, Niche, Office, Passion, Post, Profession, Prowess, Quest, Reason, Responsibility, Role, Service, Skill, Strength, Suitable, Talent, Tasks, Thing, Trade, Wish, Work, Yearn

Yesterday's Answer: Collection

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Durant's sensational performance sends Nets to 3-2 lead



NEW YORK
(AP)—Kevin Durant has always been one of the NBA's most unstoppable scorers.

The Brooklyn Nets needed much more than points Tuesday night, so Durant gave them one of the most spectacular performances in postseason history.

Durant had 49 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists, sending the Nets back into the lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 114-108 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks in Game 5. "I know the perception of me is that I can score the basketball well, but any team that I've played on, I've been asked to do pretty much everything from rebounding to defending to initiating to scoring," Durant said. "I might not do it all the time but I do a little bit of everything."

In Game 5, it was a whole lot of everything.

The two-time NBA Finals MVP became the first player to have at least 45 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in a playoff game.

"Historic, historic performance," Nets coach Steve Nash said.

With James Harden returning but delivering little offense and Kyrie Irving out, Durant played all 48 minutes and shot 16 for 23 from the field. The four-time scoring champion had 20 points in the fourth quarter, perhaps the biggest shot a 3-pointer with 50 seconds left and the Nets protecting a one-point lead.

"The injuries that he's been through, to come back even from the Achilles to the ham-



AP
Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant reacts after sinking a 3-point shot against the Milwaukee Bucks during the fourth quarter of Game 5 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Tuesday, June 15, 2021, in New York.

jumpers short and rarely beating anyone on the dribble.

Durant made sure it didn't matter.

"Special performance by him," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "Credit to him, some tough shots, so we've got to look at it, figure out getting better."

The Nets were 4 for 20 in the first quarter, 2 for 13 on 3-pointers, and Middleton's three-point play with 33 seconds left gave Milwaukee a 29-1 lead after one.

Durant's basket got it down to 42-33 before Antetokounmpo rattled in a 3-pointer and follow with two more baskets to push the lead to 16, which is where it still was when the Bucks took a 59-43 lead to the half.

The Bucks still led by 16 midway through the third quarter, answering every time the Nets seemed to have any momentum. But Durant then got hot and never really cooled off.

He made all four shots and scored 11 points in the final 6:18 of the third as the Nets pulled to 87-81 on his three-point play with 31 seconds left.

Durant kept right on going to open the fourth, with his 3-pointer with 8:36 to play making it 94-93, Brooklyn's first lead since it was 2-0.

string to get back in this position, the world is witnessing, once again, who is the best player in the world," Nets forward Jeff Green said.

No argument from the Bucks.

"He's the best player in the world right now and we've got to beat him as a team," Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "We've got to guard him as a team. We've got to make him make tough shots like tonight. We've just got to keep doing our job and hopefully he's going to miss."

Harden played for the first time since leaving 43 seconds into the series opener with right hamstring tightness. He shot just 1 for 10 and missed all eight 3-pointers, but had eight assists and six rebounds while playing 46 minutes.

"I woke up and was like, 'You know what? Let's go,'" Harden said. "I tried to go out there and do the best I can. Hopefully I gave my teammates some encouragement and some life."

Green made seven 3-pointers and scored 27 points

for the Nets, who fell into a 17-point hole in this one after two losses in Milwaukee before Durant carried them back. Blake Griffin added 17 points.

Game 6 is Thursday in Milwaukee, where the Bucks are 4-0 against the Nets this season.

Antetokounmpo had 34 points and 12 rebounds, while Khris Middleton added 25 points.

The Bucks had all the momentum after winning the two games in Milwaukee, with Irving spraining his ankle in the

second quarter of Game 4. It appeared Durant would be the only one of the three superstars to play Tuesday — which given the way he played, may have been enough anyway.

The Nets originally ruled Harden out on Monday, then upgraded him Tuesday first to doubtful and then questionable. He worked out before the game and seemed to be moving well, jogging off the court into the tunnel after his warmup before being cleared to play.

But he didn't appear to have full strength in his leg, leaving

Denver's Nikola Jokic was the runaway MVP this season, which made it a virtual certainty that he would also be an All-NBA first-team selection.

Here's the rarity: The MVP runner-up was not a first-team selection.

Jokic headlined the All-NBA first team that was unveiled Tuesday night, but Philadelphia's Joel Embiid — who was second in the MVP race — only made the second team. Jokic and Embiid are primarily centers, in the eyes of most voters, and that meant they were vying for that position on the first team.

The rest of the first team: Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (the only unanimous first-team selection) and the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard at forward, along with Golden State's Stephen Curry and Dallas' Luka Doncic at guard.

The second team picks, along with Embiid at center, were the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James and New York's Julius Randle at forward, plus Portland's Damian

Jokic leads All-NBA team; MVP runner-up Embiid 2nd-team pick

Lillard and Phoenix's Chris Paul at guard.

And the third team selections: Utah's Rudy Gobert at center, Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving and Washington's Bradley Beal at guard, and Miami's Jimmy Butler and the Clippers' Paul George at forward.

"I am humbled and honored," Beal said.

The All-NBA voting still classifies by position — with two guards, two forwards and a center on each of the three teams — in a league that has gone increasingly positionless. There are 15 players on the final list, which essentially breaks down to the top six guards, top six forwards and top three centers, not necessarily the best 15 players.

And the MVP award has no positional breakdown. Voters choose five players; positions don't matter. For All-NBA, a global panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters who cover the league serve as the selectors.

RARE INSTANCE

It was the first time since 1994-95 that the MVP runner-up wasn't a first-team selection; it was a collision of two centers for one spot that season as well, with MVP David Robinson getting the first-team nod and runner-up Shaquille O'Neal winding up as the second-team center pick.

There have been similar examples before, and even four instances — albeit none under the current voting format — of the MVP not making the All-NBA first team. It happened to Bill Russell in 1958, 1961 and 1962, and then to Dave Cowens in 1973.

Blake Griffin was third in the MVP voting in 2013-14; he was also second-team All-NBA that year because he finished behind Kevin Durant and James — the top two MVP votegetters — in the voting for the two forward spots.

The same thing happened to Carmelo Anthony in 2012-13; he was third in the MVP race,

behind James and Durant, and was second-team All-NBA as well because they took the two slots at forward. Alonzo Mourning had a similar fate in 1999-2000; he was third in the MVP race, but just second-team All-NBA at center because he was behind O'Neal, that season's MVP.

MONEY MATTERS

Making All-NBA represents a big payday for Doncic, who is now eligible to sign an extension worth about \$201 million this summer—a raise of about \$33 million over what his max contract value would have been without this All-NBA nod.

But it also was a big hit for players like Boston's Jayson Tatum and Utah's Donovan Mitchell, both of whom could have seen the rookie extensions they agreed to last year rise by \$33 million in total value, from \$163 million for five years to \$196 million.

Tatum actually got more votes than Irving, but Irving

made the third team because of the positional breakdown. Irving was sixth among guards in the voting; Tatum was seventh among forwards.

RETURNEES FROM 2020

Doncic and Antetokounmpo were the only first-team picks from last season to be first-teamers again this season. Lillard made All-NBA for the fourth consecutive season, the last three of those coming with him as a second-team pick.

Jokic, Paul and Leonard were second-team selections last season, while Butler was a third-team pick for the second consecutive year and fourth time in five seasons. Paul becomes the 24th player in NBA history to make at least 10 All-NBA teams.

Gobert also made the third team for the third consecutive year, his fourth All-NBA nod overall.

James was third team last season, and his streak now includes 13 first-team selections,

three second-team nods and the third-team appearance in 2020. He becomes the first 17-time All-NBA player; Kobe Bryant, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Tim Duncan were all 15-time picks.

THE NEW FACES

Randle and Beal were the only first-time selections on the All-NBA teams this season.

Curry wasn't All-NBA last season after missing basically the entire year with injuries; this became his seventh All-NBA nod of his career.

George returned to All-NBA for the first time in three years. Embiid and Irving are back after missing out the teams last season.

HE'S NOT BACK

All-NBA players from last season who didn't make any of the three teams this season: the Lakers' Anthony Davis (first-team in 2020), Brooklyn's James Harden (first-team in 2020 for Houston) and Toronto's Pascal Siakam (second-team in 2020).

Altuve hits grand slam in 10th, Astros rally past Rangers



HOUSTON
(AP)—Jose Altuve belted

a grand slam in the 10th inning and the Houston Astros, saved by Carlos Correa's tying homer in the ninth, beat the Texas Rangers 6-3 on Tuesday night to give manager Dusty Baker quite an exciting birthday gift.

After Texas drove in the automatic runner in the top of the 10th for a 3-2 lead, Rangers rookie reliever Demarcus Evans (0-2) walked Myles Straw and pinch-hitter Jason Castro to load the bases with no outs in the bottom half.

Altuve then launched his soaring shot into left field to put the Astros on top and start the party.

Altuve was doused with water at home plate before sharing a hug with Baker, who celebrated his 72nd birthday.

Correa hit a solo homer to the opposite field shot with two outs and two strikes in the ninth off Josh Sborz, making it 2-all.

Nate Lowe's RBI single off Ryan Pressly (3-1) with two outs in the 10th put the Rangers up.

Mets 3, Cubs 2

In New York, Taijuan Walker struck out a career-high 12, Pete Alonso drove in three runs and surging New York threw out the potential tying run at the plate in the ninth inning to beat Chicago.

Walker (6-2) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings, and he walked none for the third time.

Javier Báez put the Cubs ahead 2-0 in the third with his 15th home run. Alonso hit a two-run single in the bottom half and a sacrifice fly in the fifth.

Seth Lugo got six outs for his first save since returning on June 2 from elbow surgery, and the NL East-leading Mets won for the fifth time in six games to move nine games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2019 season.

Alec Mills (2-1) allowed three runs, five hits and two walks in 4 1/3 innings.

Cardinals 2, Marlins 1

In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt hit a game-ending homer in the ninth inning and drove in both runs as St. Louis beat Miami.

St. Louis has won two in a row against the Marlins after dropping nine of 10 overall. Miami lost its third straight.

Goldschmidt had a tying RBI single in the sixth. He led off the ninth and drilled a 98 mph fastball from Yimi Garcia (3-5) to right-center field for his sixth career walk-off home run.

Alex Reyes (4-2) worked a scoreless ninth.

Reds 2, Brewers 1, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Cincinnati



Houston Astros' Jose Altuve (27) celebrates with Chas McCormick (20) and Michael Brantley after hitting a game-winning grand slam during the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers Tuesday, June 15, 2021, in Houston.

broke open a scoreless game in the 10th inning without the benefit of a hit and held on to beat Milwaukee.

Brett Anderson worked seven innings of one-hit ball for the Brewers and combined with three relievers on a two-hitter, but it all fell apart for Brad Boxberger (2-2) in the 10th.

Boxberger hit Tyler Stephenson with a pitch and walked Joey Votto to load the bases. Then he hit Eugenio Suárez with a pitch to score Nick Castellanos, who started the inning at second base. Stephenson scored on a sacrifice fly by Kyle Farmer.

Cincinnati's Luis Castillo allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings, and four relievers completed the four-hitter. Lucas Sims (4-1) pitched a scoreless ninth and Amir Garrett got the final out for his third save.

White Sox 3, Rays 0

In Chicago, Dallas Keuchel pitched seven innings of crisp four-hit ball to win his fifth straight decision, leading Chicago past Tampa Bay.

Adam Engel hit a solo home run and Tim Anderson had three hits for the White Sox. Chicago won for the fifth time in six games and ended Tampa Bay's four-game winning streak.

Keuchel (6-1) struck out five and walked one. Aaron Bummer pitched a scoreless eighth and Liam Hendriks worked around two singles in the ninth for his 18th save.

Rookie Shane Bieber (2-2) allowed two earned runs on seven hits in five innings.

Rockies 8, Padres 4

In Denver, Ryan McMahon homered, tripled and drove in four runs as Colorado rallied from an early deficit to beat skidding San Diego.

Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his NL-leading 20th home run of the

season for San Diego, which has lost 11 of 15.

It was 4-all when Garrett Hampson, pinch-hitting for reliever Carlos Estévez (1-0), tripled off Tim Hill (3-3) in the seventh. Tapia followed with a double, extending his hitting streak to 12 games, and scored on a sacrifice fly by McMahon.

The Padres gave starter Yu Darvish a 4-0 lead after two innings, but he couldn't hold it. He allowed four runs and five hits in five-plus innings.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 5

In Buffalo, N.Y., Clint Frazier snapped an eighth-inning tie with a pinch-hit double and the New York Yankees hit three solo homers to beat Toronto.

Frazier hit a grounder inside the third-base line to score pinch-runner Tyler Wade from second as the Yankees completed a comeback from a 5-2 deficit and won for the third time in 10 games.

Bo Bichette homered and had a two-run single for the Blue Jays.

Jonathan Loaisiga (6-2) worked one inning to earn the win. Tim Mayza (1-1) allowed a leadoff single to Miguel Andújar in the eighth and took the loss. Aroldis Chapman worked a perfect ninth for his 13th save.

Red Sox 10, Braves 8

In Atlanta, Alex Verdugo hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer off Chris Martin in the eighth inning. Rafael Devers added a three-run homer and drove in four runs, and Boston beat Atlanta.

Verdugo's ninth homer came with two outs and made it 10-7. Martin (0-3) gave up three hits and three runs.

Xander Bogaerts hit his 13th homer for the Red Sox, who have won four of six.

Hirokazu Sawamura (3-0) worked a flawless seventh. Matt Barnes earned his 15th save in 18 chances after facing

five batters and giving up a run in the ninth.

Nationals 8, Pirates 1

In Washington, Yan Gomes connected for a grand slam and Trea Turner got four hits, leading Patrick Corbin and Washington past Pittsburgh.

The Nationals won their third in a row and sent Pittsburgh to its ninth straight loss.

Corbin (4-5) pitched 8 1/3 innings, allowing one run and eight hits. He struck out seven and walked one while going at least eight innings for the first time since Aug. 21, 2019.

Gomes' slam finished a five-run first inning against Tyler Anderson (3-7). It was Gomes' first grand slam since joining the Nationals in 2019 and the fourth of his career.

Indians 7, Orioles 2

In Cleveland, Eddie Rosario hit a two-run double and Bobby Bradley homered for Cleveland, and Baltimore lost its 17th straight on the road.

The Orioles made four errors and moved closed to the major league record of 22 consecutive road losses, shared by the 1943 Philadelphia Athletics and 1963 New York Mets.

Amed Rosario got three hits, stole a base and drove in a run for Cleveland, which has won four of five and is a season-high eight games over .500.

James Karinchak (4-2) struck out all three batters he faced in the eighth.

Matt Harvey (3-8) suffered his career-high seventh straight loss and gave up six runs, five earned, in 3 1/3 innings.

Tigers 4, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Casey Mize turned in his eighth quality start in his last nine games, Miguel Cabrera got two more hits and Detroit sent Kansas City to its fifth straight loss.

Mize (4-4) allowed three

runs on seven hits in 6 2/3 innings. Gregory Soto pitched the ninth for his sixth save in as many chances.

Cabrera, stuck in a slump for most of the season, doubled and singled to drive in one run and score another.

Mike Minor (5-4) gave up four runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Athletics 6, Angels 4

In Oakland, Calif., Frankie Montas induced Shohei Ohtani's inning-ending double play in the third, then struck out the two-way star with three splitters low in the zone to finish the fifth.

Sure, Ohtani hit his 18th homer late—but he did minimal damage at the plate overall, and that's certainly a mark of success for any Angels opponent.

Sean Murphy homered for the second consecutive night, Elvis Andrus hit a two-run double and Montas pitched the Oakland Athletics past Los Angeles 6-4 on Tuesday for their fifth straight win.

Montas enjoyed those battles with Ohtani, even though there was some added anxiety with runners on base.

Mariners 10, Twins 0

In Seattle, J.P. Crawford homered on J.A. Happ's first pitch, Shed Long Jr. hit a three-run triple an inning later and the Seattle Mariners thumped the Minnesota Twins 10-0 on Tuesday night.

Seattle starter Chris Flexen tossed eight sharp innings while striking out a career-high eight, and was backed by an early offensive outburst that plated five runs in the first two innings.

"It was pretty awesome. I don't think anything really felt different. It was just definitely locked in and had all four pitches going," Flexen said.

Crawford became the first Mariners player to homer on the opening pitch since Dustin Ackley in 2012 when he drove Happ's fastball out to right field for his fourth of the season.

Long, recently recalled from the minors after a lengthy recovery from a stress fracture in his shin sustained last season, provided the big blow in the second inning with a bases-loaded liner into the right-center gap and capped the triple with a belly-flop slide into third base.

Giants 9, Diamondbacks 8

In San Francisco, ahead the whole way, the Arizona Diamondbacks watched in almost disbelief when Mike Yastrzemski connected.

And just like that, the Diamondbacks had inched even closer to a most dubious mark.

The Diamondbacks blew a seven-run lead and lost their 21st straight road game, one short of the major league record, when Yastrzemski hit a grand slam with two outs in the eighth inning that lifted the San Francisco Giants to a 9-8 victory Tuesday night.

Arizona led 7-0 in the second inning, but couldn't hold on and lost its 12th in a row overall.

"Anytime you lose it hurts, but for it to be in that kind of fashion, a grand slam in the bottom of the eighth, that one was tough," Diamondbacks second baseman Josh Rojas said.

Dodgers 5, Phillies 3

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-3 Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium before the largest crowd to attend a professional sports league game in the United States since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Betts led off the seventh by driving an 0-2 changeup from Ranger Suárez (2-1) over the left-center wall to give Los Angeles a 4-3 lead. Betts, who had three hits, also provided an insurance run with an RBI single in the eighth.

The Phillies have lost two straight and also saw slugger Bryce Harper leave the game with lower back stiffness after he took an awkward swing in the fourth.

Drag Race Marianas 5K set for June 26

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pride Marianas Youth and Palm-Trio 670 will be hosting a 5-kilometer run or walk event on June 26 along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway starting from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Japanese World War II tank and back.

Drag Race Marianas will start promptly at 6am with the

first 100 sign-ups getting an event medal. Registration is free with registration until race day, June 26.

PalmTrio 670 member Jefferson Mateo said they and Pride Marianas Youth organized Drag Race Marianas in celebration of Pride Month and for the benefit of the LGBTQ+.

"We are hosting this 5K to celebrate our rainbow family! We are co-leading the event alongside the amazing people under Pride Marianas Youth.

We wanted to incorporate a family-friendly event that focuses on holistic-wellness, where anyone and everyone is welcome," he said.

Mateo said they are expecting around 150 participants to take part in Drag Race Marianas, which they plan to make into a yearly thing during Pride Month.

And contrary to the event's name, Drag Race Marianas is non-competitive and organizers will not be taking the times of the finishers.

"It's called a drag race,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Drag Race Marianas will be held on June 26 along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway starting from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Japanese World War II tank and back.

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been swimming in the ocean and small pools after the Marpi swimming pool was closed.

"We are extremely excited and thankful that the Oleai Sports Complex revitalization was approved. We cannot wait to see the improvements taking shape and of course use the new and improved facilities," he said.

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said the building of a new Olympic-size swimming pool in the center of the island will make the sport more accessible to the community. He said like Sikkell, his swimmers also can't wait to take laps in an official pool again.

"Young swimmers need swim meet to improve. We can do practice at any size pool but swim meet can be held at official pool only," he said.

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Soledad Quan said an upgraded Oleai Sports Complex, especially the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, will give more incentive for athletes to train.

"Having clean and modern facilities is one of the foundational pieces of building a thriving ecosystem of competitive sports in our community. Not having these types of facilities puts our athletes at a disadvantage when it comes to competing outside of the CNMI," she said.

Quan said it's been difficult for indoor volleyball players to continue playing without the Ada Gym and she can't wait to see the venue up and running once again.

"I am ecstatic and grateful that the CNMI will once again have a functioning and safe indoor volleyball court/gymnasium to practice and compete in. Overall, these upgrades will help give our athletes a sense of pride in where they play and more opportunities to reach their full potential," she said.

As detailed by plans under the CNMI Sports and Cultural Tourism Enhancement project, the renovation and rehabilitation of the Ada Gym will entail repair to the damage brought by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, enhance storm resiliency and improve the building, which includes

making the roof resistant to 190 miles per hour winds, construction of a second-floor addition for office space and conference rooms, and a separate concrete storage facility (approximately 10 ft. x 20 ft.) to be associated with the gym and track.

The makeover of the Oleai Sports Complex will also include the construction of two International Tennis Federation tennis courts with associated facilities such as warm-up walls, fencing, and bleachers.

For baseball, the plans are the rehabilitation and renovation of the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field and associated facilities including the addition of a spectator grandstand, lighting, announcer's box, batting cages, dugouts, and concession stand.

In related news, the launch ceremony for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games will be held today starting 4:30pm at the Oleai Sports Complex. This will be the official start of the one-year countdown toward the CNMI's hosting of the Pacific Mini Games next year.

not because it's a race, but because we wanted our participants to come together and do their best to complete the 5K by walking, jogging, running, and/or sashaying the 5K route," he said.

Mateo also said organizers wanted to call it a drag race to

pay tribute to Rupaul's *Drag Race* television show. "We find inspiration in the members of the show and thus we encourage the community to come to the event in drag and simply express themselves.

Aside from medals to the first 100 to register, partici-

pants will also get opportunities to win prizes under the Dressed in Drag category and Rainbow Runners category.

For more information about the Drag Race, email palmtrio670@gmail.com or contact them via Instagram "palmtrio670."

JIMIN

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325 points for prevailing in the doubles with partner Hye Jin Elliot. Elliot is second in the age group for coming in second to Chung in the junior championships, which gave her 1,125 points. She then got another 325 points for teaming up with her singles final opponent in the doubles to give her 1,450 points for the season.

Seiyul Hong closed out the Top 3 in the girls 18-and-under division with 1,200. She had 900 points for coming in third to Chung and Elliot in the singles competition of the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament and received 300 points for coming in second in the doubles of the same tourney with partner Yebin Shin.

In the boys 16-and-under di-

vision, Cody Shimizu is a mere 50 points ahead of Sam Culp, 2,100 points-2,050 points. Shimizu got 600 points from finishing third in the 2020 Coconut Tennis Classic and 1,500 points for the topping the age group's singles competition in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament.

Culp, for his part, gained 750 points for finishing runner-up in the 2020 Saipan International School STUCO Tennis Tournament, 400 points for coming in fifth in the 2020 Coconut Tennis Classic, and 900 points for a third-place finish in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament.

Min Seoung Kim is in third place in the boys 16-and-under division with 2,025 points. He had 600 points for finishing third in the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament, 300 points for coming in sixth

in the Coconut Tennis Classic, and 1,125 points for being the runner-up to Shimizu in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament.

Chung, Elliot, and Hong also found themselves coming in 1-2-3 in the 16-and-under division rankings with 2,000 points, 1,500 points, and 600 points, respectively.

NMITA keeps tabs on the junior rankings as this will determine the composition of the yearly North Pacific Regional Championships. Winners of the NPRC will then go on to compete in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.

The rankings for the boys 14-and-under, 12-and-under, and 10-and-under and girls 14-and-under, 12-and-under, and 10-and-under will be published in tomorrow's edition of *Saipan Tribune*.

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different aspects of commercial fishing, sustenance (traditional) fishing, and sport fishing are important. Giving our youth a glimpse of all as well educating them about the overall impact if not monitored or protected can significantly change our lifestyle. Teaching fishing and the roles they play for future generations will have an impact for the future. We hope they will become responsible stewards for their generation and follow suit with educating their youth so it continues," said Pangelinan.

Participants of the Tasi To Table Youth Mini-Derby thanked Weaver, Pangelinan, and the rest of the group that make up Tasi to Table for being great mentors not only last weekend but throughout the duration of the program.

"It's such a rewarding and

productive program that provides experiences I know will make memories and benefit my knowledge as a student under the club. Being able to go out on the water is already an advantage in itself. I wasn't too sure if we would catch anything, and had we not, it still would've been a great experience. But when we were able to catch the biggest one yet that made it all the better," said Marianas High School student Kina Rangamar, who was part of first-place winning boat *Hagu Reel*.

For Haeven Hocog, joining the Tasi To Table program was one the best decisions she ever made. "I've learned about so many things and met some really amazing people. If I had the chance to do it all over again, I wouldn't hesitate. Waiting for a bite for almost 6 hours was one of the downers because we were so excited to catch a fish. When we finally caught one, reeling it in was a very exciting

moment. Being placed with some of the best crewmates made the experience an unforgettable one," she said.

Raymond Deleon Guerrero said the Tasi To Table program is very good, well organized, and most importantly fun and gives a chance to a lot of young high schoolers who don't know how to fish the opportunity to go on a boat and try it out.

"To learn something new and to do it with new people or people you may already know was fun. It can teach many things and help in the future. Like if they ever wanted to go fishing in the future they would know how to fish, what bait to use, how to set up their gear, and how to put food on the table. There's other benefits a student can get from this group like building friendship, learning to work together, and to be social with other people," he said.

Like Deleon Guerrero, Dhan Robles and Rudy Castro said the program is a great

way to bring the community together and gives many great opportunities for students.

"The mini derby we recently had was exciting and gave us a chance to get to know other students from other islands. Overall, we really enjoyed this experience. It also paves the way for future fishermen to learn the way of fishing. We are the future. It's our responsibility to keep the culture strong and going for generations and generations to come," they said.

Carmelita Castro agreed with Weaver and Pangelinan that the program teaches the youth invaluable life skills. "I think that this program is not only making us enjoy ourselves but also teaching us life skills. 'You give a man a fish you feed him for a day, you teach a man to fish and you feed him for a life time' as the saying goes," she said.

Tehani Reyes marveled at the program's inclusive nature while all the while making sure

the students were engaged and learning something. "All the events that I've attended, they all required lots of teamwork, cooperation, attentiveness, and quick problem solving. This recent experience felt almost surreal because I've never experienced something like it. I was given a chance to be far from home while also seeing beautiful sights," she said.

Rayna Deleon Guerrero said she's just happy she was able to be on a boat and taught how to fish. "Being on a boat on the water is already a thrilling experience. The roughness of the water most especially will have you on your toes. But once you throw that line in the water, all you can do is have patience. Some days you are lucky and some days you are not. Fishing is all about patience and timing, so never give up!"

Even those who went back to the Smiling Cove Marina devoid of fish were still grateful for the Tasi To

Table program.

"I think that the program is great for the students especially because summer is here. The TTT program also allows us to experience stuff we never experienced before. I got excited chasing schools of fish and probably seeing those dolphins. The only downer I got was not being able to catch fish, but it happens," said Rota student Peter John Manglona.

Blake Mister shared Manglona's sort of bitter-sweet experience during the mini derby. "The TTT program is an amazing program that teaches students many life skills and of course we get to learn all about the ocean and fishing. The whole experience is full of thrills just from getting the day started early in the morning and charging out into the water to start fishing. The only small downer was that we didn't catch any. It was still really fun and we had a few bites," he said.



Durant's sensational performance sends Nets to 3-2 lead

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Drag Race Marianas 5K set for June 26

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sports community welcomes Oleai makeover

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI Sports and Cultural Tourism Enhancement project that will essentially transform the decades-old Oleai Sports Complex into one of the most modern sports venues in the region has been welcomed by open arms by the Commonwealth's sports community.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee said the \$21.2-million grant recently approved by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce to upgrade the Oleai Sports Complex will work wonders not only in developing the islands' athletes but also in luring foreign athletes and teams to train in our shores under the Marianas Visitors Authority's sports tourism program.

"The \$21-million funding will be extremely beneficial not only for basketball but for all sports in general as well as for our island/community. If we do this right I can see a tourism market for our island. We won't be limited on just

promoting our beautiful beach and people of the CNMI, we can promote sports tourism and attract world-class athletes to come over and train and/or host high-level competitions," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

From that, Lee believes not only will the CNMI benefit from generating revenues from sports tourism but local athletes will also have higher training experience and competition.

"The possibility can be endless. However, it will take everyone's help to make it happen, starting from working together with our government, our private sector, our sports federation, the community as a whole so that we can maximize the full benefit of the funding and not just a facelift of our Oleai Sports Complex,"



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Oleai Sports Complex's Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is all dolled up in preparation for today's launch ceremony for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. This will mark the official start of the one-year countdown toward the CNMI's hosting of the quadrennial event next year.

he added.

For Saipan Swim Club coach Richard Sikkel, the plan to build an Olympic-size swimming pool with associated facilities such as a cantilevered roof, electronic timers, pumps, piping, water storage, spectator bleachers, locker room, and utility rooms is nothing short of a godsend for the CNMI's swimmers, who for a couple of years now have

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Jimin, Serin atop junior rankings

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jimin Woo and Serin Chung have managed to soldier on during the COVID-19 pandemic, winning enough local tennis tournaments to find themselves atop the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association junior tennis rankings.

Woo is lording it over in the boys 18-and-under division with a total of 1,825 points. He got 1,500 points after winning the singles title in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament

and got another 325 points for topping the doubles division of the same tournament with Ji Hwan "Sam" Ryu.

Ryu is second in the boys 18-and-under division with 1,459 points. He finished runner-up to Woo in the junior championships to gain 1,125 and then got the same 325 points as his doubles partner in the same tourney.

Sean Lee completes the Top 3 in the division with 1,125 points. He got 900 points for

finishing second runner-up in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament and got another 225 for coming in second with Seong Euan "Isaac" Heo in the doubles event of the same competition.

With 1,825 points, Chung is the pacesetter in the girls 18-and-under division. She received 1,500 points for winning the age group's singles championship in the 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament and another

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'Mini-Derby taught our youth life lessons'



MARK RABAGO

High school participants of the Tasi To Table Youth Mini-Derby pose with organizers and boat captains and crew members last Saturday at the weighing station of the Smiling Cove Marina.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Organizers of last weekend's Tasi To Table Youth Mini-Derby were more than happy to teach the next generation of the CNMI's fishermen the tricks of the trade. However, Tasi To Table president Gene Weaver and vice president Wayne Pangelinan believe they're not only im-

parting to the youth the best ways to catch fish, but also passing to them life lessons.

"When we teach these students or even our own family members how to fish we're teaching them life lesson. These are skills that they can pass on to the next generation. Sustainability, problem solving, techniques, conservation, and what they



can do protect the resources that they have I feel is the importance of teaching the next generation about fishing," said Weaver.

Pangelinan, for his part, said fishing is culturally significant to the CNMI like other islands surrounded by water.

"Techniques shared in the

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Woo



Chung